

RMLA OBJECTIVE

RMLA is the pre-eminent organisation for the promotion of best practice in the implementation of environmental policy and law, including through education, debate and commentary.

Policies

- That the National Committee be responsible for identifying and determining themes to be examined and addressed in RMLA publications, road shows, regional seminars, scholarship funded research and at the annual conference.
- That the themes determined by the National Committee be topical, relevant and anticipate emerging issues:
 - Linked to existing or impending Central Government policy initiatives, including legislative reform and national planning or policy instruments.
 - Linked to existing or anticipated resource management issues facing the New Zealand economy, society or environment.
 - Linked to regional resource management issues that have broader national significance or consequences.
 - Capable of supporting a number of topics of relevance to the theme and the interests of the diverse RMLA membership.
- To secure pre-eminent New Zealand and/or international experts to address topics relevant to identified themes at the annual conference and where possible as part of the road show or regional seminar programmes.
- That scope be retained within RMLA publications, road shows, regional seminars and at the annual conference for topics to be addressed that are not directly related to any identified theme, so as to maintain flexibility to respond to more immediate issues arising during any given period, or as opportunities to retain pre-eminent speakers on topics relevant to members (for example, as engaged by other entities) arise.
- To ensure that the annual programme of road shows, regional seminars and conference workshop sessions include skills based assistance or training to members in relevant areas of legal, planning or technical expertise.

- That the National Committee be responsible for co-ordinating and lodging submissions on behalf of the RMLA on resource management law and national planning documents, where appropriate and relevant to the Association's objectives.

Methods

- A taskforce will be commissioned by the National Committee in February of any calendar year, comprising representatives from the National Committee and Regional committees to identify themes (applying the policies outlined above) and topics that may be addressed as related to the themes. The taskforce should include representation from the editorial committee, the executive, the conference portfolio holder, the legislation committee, and any Ministry for the Environment member of the National Committee.
- By 31 August of any calendar year, the National Committee will have determined the themes to be addressed during the subsequent years publications, road show, regional seminars and at the subsequent conference (ie for example by 31 August 2008, identify themes to be addressed during the calendar year of 2009).
- The taskforce should then research international conference programmes, relevant publications, attend conferences, and liaise with related associations and educational institutions to identify pre-eminent New Zealand and international speakers and writers on topics relevant to the themes, including speakers and writers with potentially opposing or divergent views on those topics.
- Leading practitioners within disciplines of relevance to the wider membership will be approached and retained to present skills based seminars as part of the road shows, regional seminars and conference workshop programme.
- The Legislation Committee will keep up to date with any proposed (including amendments to) policy, legislation and significant resource management documents, and co-ordinate and lodge submissions in accordance with the RMLA Process Guidelines for Submissions on Legislation / Planning Instruments (2012).