



BUILDING COMPETITIVE CITIES DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

TO: RM Reform, Ministry for the Environment

**Submission on behalf of the
Resource Management Law Association of New Zealand Inc**

Introduction

- 1 This Submission is made by the Resource Management Law Association of New Zealand Inc (**RMLA**).
- 2 The RMLA is concerned to promote within New Zealand:
 - An understanding of Resource Management Law and its interpretation in a multi-disciplinary framework;
 - Excellence in resource management policy and practice; and
 - Resource management processes which are legally sound, effective and efficient and which produce high quality environmental outcomes.
- 3 The RMLA has a mixed membership. Members include lawyers, planners, judges, environmental consultants, environmental engineers, local authority officers and councillors, central government policy analysts, industry representatives and others. Currently the Association has some 1,100 plus members. Within such an organisation there is inevitably a divergent range of interests and views of members.
- 4 While the members have been consulted in preparing this submission, it is not possible for the RMLA to form a single universally accepted view on the proposed regulations. It should also be noted that a number of members may be providing their own individual feedback and those may represent quite different approaches to the views expressed here.

RMLA, C/- 4 Shaw Way, Hillsborough, Auckland 1041

Tel: (9) 626-6068 Email: karol.helmink@xtra.co.nz

www.rmla.org.nz

General comments

- 5 The RMLA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Building Competitive Cities – Reform of the Urban and Infrastructure Planning System (**Discussion Document**). Specific submissions on the various questions posed by the Discussion Document are included in the submission form attached.
- 6 The RMLA commends the review of the RMA in relation to the issues surrounding urban and infrastructure planning and supports the objectives of the review set out in Chapter 1.
- 7 The RMLA notes that the following background documents have been considered in preparing the Discussion Document:
 - Report of the Minister for the Environment's Urban Technical Advisory Group (**UTAG**);
 - Report of the Minister for the Environment's Infrastructure Technical Advisory Group (**ITAG**); and
 - Providing National Guidance on Infrastructure through the Resource Management Act 1991 (Prepared for Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry for the Environment - September 2010) (**MED/MfE commissioned report**).
- 8 The RMLA further notes that a few of the recommendations made by the UTAG and ITAG have not made it into the Discussion Document. Comment is made on some of these 'missing' recommendations in the attached submission.

Concluding remarks

- 9 Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We are happy to assist further in relation to any of the responses we have made.



Signature of Helen Atkins, President, on behalf of the Resource Management Law Association

Date: 17 December 2010

Address for Service: RMLA, C/- 4 Shaw Way, Hillsborough, Auckland 1041

Telephone: (9) 626-6068 or 027 272 3960

Email: karol.helmink@xtra.co.nz

Contact Person: Karol Helmink

RMLA, C/- 4 Shaw Way, Hillsborough, Auckland 1041

Tel: (9) 626-6068 Email: karol.helmink@xtra.co.nz

www.rmla.org.nz