Improving the RMA system

What complementary measures are required?
Our Challenge

Closing the gap between the aspirations of the RMA and its achievements
Key questions

- Is the system moving in the direction of sustainability?
- If yes, can we make it go faster?
- If not, why not? What will it take to change direction?
Planning Mandate
- Clarity of RMAct
- Implementing Actions of Central Government Agencies

Organisational Capability
- Regional Councils’ Capability
- District Councils’ Capability

Plan Quality
- Regional Policy Statements
- District Plans

Context
- Population size
- Median home value
The legal mandate

- Clarify aspirations - a system needs a clear goal
The political mandate

- Assumptions
- Actions
- Agendas
Planning practice

- Implementation & monitoring are the keys to policy learning
- Planners should lead evaluation
- More use of non-regulatory methods to complement plan rules
### TABLE 1: OVERVIEW OF AUCKLAND REGION COUNCIL’S MONITORING ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key:**
- Green: Action Undertaken
- Orange: Action Partially Undertaken
- Red: Action Not Undertaken

Source: Mason, G. Scoping Study on Historic Heritage Monitoring by Auckland Local Authorities, Oct 2008
Institutional Capacity

- Wealth of the region or district is a reliable predictor of plan quality & implementation
- The importance of scale
Commitment

- Money, staff and time
- Political leadership
Threats

- EPA will focus on consents not national policy direction
- Monitoring – a political risk
- Money will be allocated to economic growth not sustainable development
- Social science research could be neglected
Opportunities

- Creativity gets a boost
- Private philanthropy supports local initiatives
- Emergence of thought leadership & informed journalists
Conclusions

- Political & technical changes will lead to more rapid improvements than will legal and institutional reforms.
- NGOs and private philanthropies will increase their influence to the betterment of the system.