



## **Call for Abstracts 2026**

# Environmental Compliance Conference

17 - 19 November 2026

Christchurch Town Hall

Join us at the 2026 Environmental Compliance Conference and contribute to the collective knowledge shaping the future of environmental practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We invite abstracts that showcase the most current practices, tools, and techniques driving efficient and effective environmental compliance. This year, we will delve into next-generation compliance tools, strategies for improving environmental performance, emerging theories, innovative approaches, and practical applications relevant to the New Zealand context.

The 2026 Environmental Compliance Conference offers two full days of practical learning delivered by leading experts. The programme is designed to provide practical, tactical solutions to real-world compliance challenges and opportunities across New Zealand.

This annual gathering brings together professionals from across the environmental compliance sector to hear from experienced peers, exchange ideas, explore best practice, share case studies, and reconnect with colleagues from around the country.

## Objectives of the Conference:

- Foster the professional growth and capability of compliance officers
- Share best-practice insights from recognised experts
- Encourage informed and constructive professional debate within the sector
- Address key issues through practical, real-world case studies
- Provide a platform for key stakeholders to share their perspectives

With three dynamic presentation streams, this year's conference will bring together regulators, consultants, iwi partners, industry representatives, and academics to exchange ideas, review best practice, and explore what effective compliance looks like in a changing world.



# Submit an Abstract

The 2026 Committee invites YOU to submit your abstract TODAY!

## Overall Theme: Enduring Principles, Evolving practice

After a year-long hiatus, the Environmental Compliance Conference is back—and better than ever. This flagship event is a must-attend for environmental compliance professionals who want to stay ahead of the curve, connect with peers, and contribute to the evolving practice of environmental regulation in Aotearoa.

As the regulatory landscape continues to shift, the enduring principles of environmental protection, integrity, and accountability remain our foundation. But how we apply those principles is changing—driven by new legislation, emerging technologies, and evolving expectations from communities, mana whenua, and industry.

The 2026 Environmental Compliance Conference will explore how we adapt and innovate while staying true to the fundamental and enduring principles. Across three days of practical learning, field trips, exhibitions, and workshops, participants will discover the latest tools, techniques, and strategies for effective environmental compliance.

### We are looking for abstracts that:

- Offer practical insights, research findings, innovative approaches, or critical reflections on how engagement can be improved to support environmental compliance outcomes.
- Whether you're a regulator, consultant, industry representative, iwi partner, or academic, your perspective matters.
- Highlight collaboration and interoperability between regulators to maximise compliance.
- Discuss what safe collaboration looks like and the risks of regulatory capture.

# Sub Themes

## Thinking About Compliance First – Opportunities in a New Era

Regulatory roles are demanding - often high-pressure, sometimes confrontational, and increasingly complex. As environmental legislation evolves, so too do the expectations placed on both regulators and the communities they serve. With these changes come opportunities to rethink how we approach compliance: from the tools we use, to the relationships we build, to the systems we design.

This sub-theme invites abstracts that explore how we can lead with compliance thinking- embedding it early in policy, consenting, and project design to create more efficient, resilient, and equitable outcomes.

How can new technologies and data tools support smarter compliance monitoring and enforcement?

What innovations are helping regulators and the regulated work more efficiently?

What does good engagement with mana whenua look like in the compliance space?

How can mātauranga Māori be meaningfully integrated into CME practice?

How do we design regulatory systems that make compliance easier and more likely?

What behavioural insights or design principles are being used to support better outcomes?

How do we measure success?

What indicators, monitoring frameworks, or State of the Environment (SOE) reporting approaches are helping us understand impact? How can we build resilience- both individually and organisationally- in the face of increasing demands and complexity?

We're looking for abstracts that showcase innovative approaches, practical tools, and real-world examples of how compliance-first thinking is shaping better environmental outcomes. Whether you're working in data, policy, field operations, iwi partnerships, or systems design, your insights can help shape the future of environmental compliance in Aotearoa.

## Back to Basics – Building Strong Foundations for Effective CME

As environmental legislation continues to evolve, frontline compliance, monitoring, and enforcement (CME) officers face increasing complexity. Shifting responsibilities, fast-track consenting processes, and large-scale infrastructure projects are changing the regulatory landscape.

In this environment, returning to the fundamentals of good CME practice is more important than ever.

Whether you're sharing a case study, a framework, or a reflection on lessons learned, we want to hear how you're strengthening the foundations of CME for the future with abstracts that:

- Provide guidance on what best practice in CME looks like and discusses the tools and expertise a CME officer should look to develop over their career.
- Provide case studies that demonstrate examples of where these best practice approaches to resource management issues have been adopted, or that demonstrate the pitfalls where best practice is not achieved.
- Provide guidance and case studies on best practice integration of CME and policy and consenting – how has this been effectively achieved?

# Sub Themes continued

## **Crossing the divide - what does effective engagement look like between regulators and the regulated?**

In this changing regulatory and legislative landscape, effective communication and engagement is more important than ever. This sub-theme invites abstracts that explore the dynamics of engagement, collaboration, and trust-building across the compliance divide.

What does meaningful collaboration look like in practice?

Are there models or case studies that demonstrate successful co-design, co-regulation, or shared problem-solving?

How do we avoid regulatory capture while still fostering constructive relationships?

What safeguards or cultural shifts are needed to maintain integrity and independence?

Is interoperability between systems, agencies, and sectors helping or hindering compliance efforts?

How can data sharing and digital tools support better engagement?

## **Workshop**

A workshop targeted directly at regional compliance monitoring staff and RM reform implementation. This would be designed as a key drawcard/benefit for our target audience of regional compliance staff.

- Half day running from 11am – 4pm with a catered lunch. Time allows for same day travel to Christchurch and time to check into hotels before welcome drinks.
- RM reform
- Challenges and success with implementation
- Key changes and how they apply day to day.
- Enforcement provisions and use cases.

# Key Information

## FEES

Your registration includes access to all keynote presentations, two full days of educational sessions, workshops, the Welcome Function, the Gala Dinner, and the opportunity to engage one-on-one with leading experts in the compliance field.

Early Bird                 \$1,100.00+GST - Early Bird rate ends on September 25th 2026 at 5pm  
Standard                 \$1,400.00+GST

Venue capacity is limited so please book early.

## FIELD TRIPS

Any associated costs for Field Trips will be confirmed via the Registration process

## PROGRAMME

### Tuesday 17th November

11.00am     Registration Opens  
12:00pm     Workshop  
6.00pm       Welcome function

### Wednesday 18th November

8.00am       Registration  
8.30am       Keynotes  
10:30am     Breakout Sessions  
6.00pm       Pre-dinner drinks  
6.30pm       Gala dinner with guest speaker

### Thursday 19th November

8.30am       Keynotes  
10.30am     Breakout sessions  
4.00pm       Close of Conference

**\*times subject to change**

# Submission Guidelines

All abstracts must be submitted by Friday 15 May 2026 at 5pm.

Acceptance or otherwise is at the discretion of the Conference Committee. Submitters will be advised of their acceptance by late June 2026.

All Power Point presentations are due by Tuesday 20 October 2026.

## ACCEPTANCE

- All Speakers must register to attend the Conference. They can either purchase a full registration or a day registration for the day of their presentation. If a presenter wishes to come to the conference for their presentation only, they can register for a presentation only pass. This pass does not include any conference sessions, functions or catering, it will simply be entry for your presentation only.
- Selected presentations/workshops must be presented by the author/s. If the author is unable to present then you must provide a substitute presenter.
- Acceptance of abstracts does not imply any payment from the Conference Committee.
- Speakers must arrange and pay their own accommodation, travel etc. to attend the Conference, unless otherwise stated.
- If accepted and added to the programme, only to find you are no longer able to present, you must find a replacement for your talk.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Your submission should include an indication of a presentation focus on 'learning outcomes' rather than a 'show and tell' approach.
- Submissions that allow a degree of interactivity with attendees are preferred.
- Accepted presenters will be expected to have good presentation skills.
- Please think carefully about your abstract title as this cannot be changed once accepted. The title must be no more than 36 characters (inc. spaces).
- Abstracts must be no more than 300 words.
- For presentations/workshops that have co-presenters please assign a lead presenter to be responsible for the abstract submission, and please cc your co-presenter and provide all contact details.

Please email your abstract to Vanessa - [vanessa.ecc@outlook.com](mailto:vanessa.ecc@outlook.com)

# Contact



**Please direct any enquiries to the Event Manager for the 2026 Environmental Compliance Conference.**

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Event Manager

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