

Managing Environmental Health Risks from Hazardous Substances

Symposium on Priorities in
Environmental Health

Nelson, 1 December 2006

HSNO Act

- ERMA New Zealand established as the agency to implement the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act)
- The purpose of the Act is to ‘...*protect the environment, and the health and safety of people and communities, by preventing or managing the adverse effects of hazardous substances...*’

Hazardous Substances Regime

Context & Influences

Approvals
&
Standards

Monitoring
&
Research

Compliance



Substance & Standards Approvals

☉ Establish

- Approvals
- Controls
- Standards

☉ Review

- Amendments
- Reassessments

Transfer of Substances: Old to New Legislation

Pesticides Act

Dangerous Goods Act

Explosives Act

Toxic Substances Act

Fumigant Regulations

Vertebrate Pest
Control Regulations

Animal Remedy
Regulations



HSNO Act

Part V approvals
(individual)

Group standards
(groups)



Compliance



Compliance

- ④ Occupational exposures identified as initial focus
- ④ Phased programme
 - Information awareness activities
 - Light-handed enforcement
 - Sustainable compliance and enforcement regime

Monitoring and Research

- ☉ Monitor effectiveness of
 - Approvals and Standards
 - Compliance Initiatives
- ☉ Data collection
- ☉ Research to underpin activities
- ☉ Monitor international activities and initiatives

Monitoring and Research

- ☉ Surveillance to help determine priorities
- ☉ Chronic adverse effects – long latencies
- ☉ No effective direct measures
- ☉ Need to fill in gaps
- ☉ Surrogate measures
- ☉ Systematic and intervention logic based