Monitoring under the RMA Joining the Dots

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One of the dots

- Resource Consents Compliance Unit
  - 60 Monitoring Inspectors (Consented sites)
  - 35 Incident Investigators (Unconsented sites)

- Stuff we do
  - 30,000 consents to monitor
  - 55,000 noise complaints (contracted out)
  - 10,000 other RMA complaints

- Ensuring outcomes as envisaged by consents and plans
- Feedback on efficiency and effectiveness of consents and plans.

What is status quo - “Check Box”?

- Officer reviews file, inspects site, checks that the things are there, records outcome and then files it before it starts again.

- Things we check
- Certification documents
- Monitoring documents

- **Problems:** inefficient, time consuming, generally unable to get around everything so something misses out. What do we do with it?

But it’s not all bad

- “Check box” monitoring is simple and inexpensive and enables high volumes of work to be completed.
- Risk based
- We have a record of the inspection outcomes
- Evidence collected by warranted officers is good for enforcement
- Work with others to compare the effectiveness of our particular provisions and monitoring regimes

What is status quo - feedback loops?

- Consenting planners
  - Different roles but same department
  - Located in the same building, around the region
  - Both informal and formal feedback mechanisms

- Policy planners
  - Completely different part of the organisation
  - Located in a different building, only in the CBD.
  - Only formal feedback mechanisms

How can we do it differently/better?

- Drones
- Satelitte pictures/measurements
- CCTV/Webcams
- League tables of contractors
- Complain to Council app
- Get community groups/neighbours to do it for us

Crowd Sourcing Geiger Counters

- 11 March 2011 – Tohuku Earthquake and tsunami damages Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant
- Limited information available and low trust in Government
- Personal Geiger counters sell out worldwide

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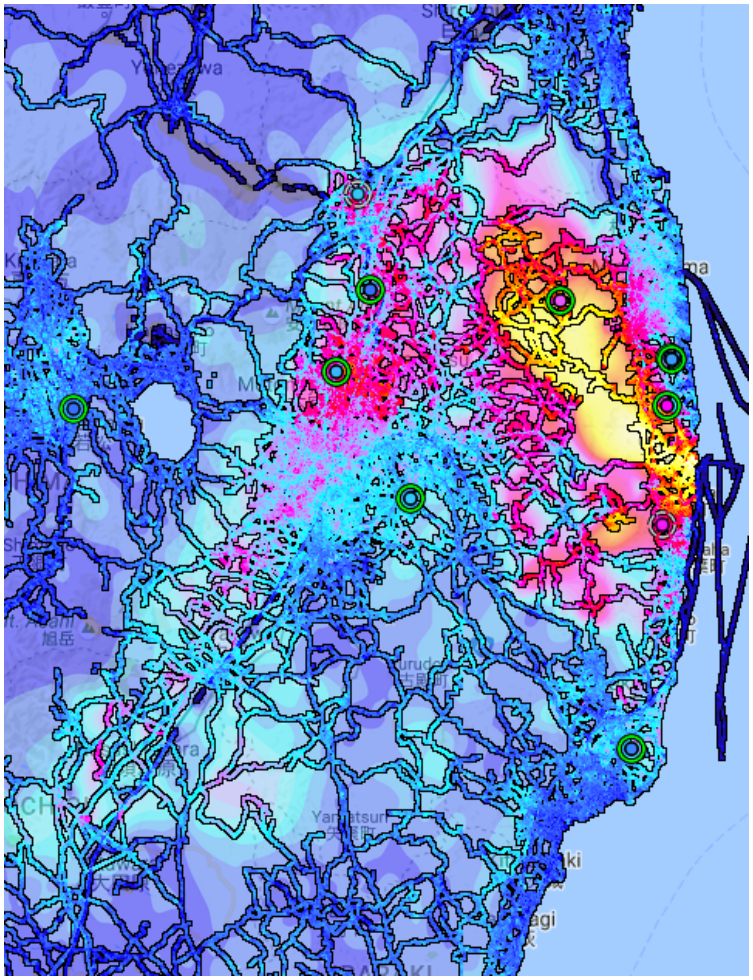
Crowd Sourcing Geiger Counters

- Safecast formed the day after
- Available information collated
- Volunteers drive around, take measurements and upload
- Issues with data quality
- Design and build their own open source Geiger counter
- Costs $1000 and takes about a week to build

Crowd Sourcing Geiger Counters

- High resolution dataset
- Reliable and covers a wide area
- 7th edition – bGeigie nano now only $600 and 4 hours to build
- 40 million measurements
- Helped boost confidence in government



Could we crowd source monitoring?

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Sediment yield
- Stormwater
- Noise

Challenges with this

- Data quality
- Cost of technology, and who develops it
- Communities and consent holder’s willingness
- Council's perception of poor data quality
- High risk sites - especially with unproven technology
- What do we do with even more data?
- Who leads it - regulatory or research?

Future

- How can we provide feedback in a way that is actually able to be used to improve our planning regime?
- Let’s think about the expected outcomes
- And let’s measure those!
- Do we already have datasets that are shareable?
- Can we get other datasets?
- Are we able to take some time out from checking boxes to quantify and feed real objective information back into the planning system to show that we are actually making a difference..

Thank You!

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