High-level summary from engagement on NPSIB changes between 19-21 March 2024

Organisation	High-level summary of feedback
Biodiversity collaborative group members	• Concerned about the use of urgency to change National Direction that has had wide input and taken years to develop. • Queried the evidence for changes needing to be made. Questioned if ecologist had raised a problem with the criteria. • This pause and review causes real uncertainty. The NPSIB addressed previous uncertainties. • Appears to be a holding pattern to allow review. • Councils will have to use existing [not NPSIB] criteria to identify and protect indigenous biodiversity. • NPSIB provides nationally consistent criteria. • This causes issues for other national direction. • We want something workable for farmers.
Iwi representatives Te Tai Kaha Iwi Leaders Group	• Questioned whether advice on environmental impacts and Te Tiriti impacts was provided to, and considered by, the Minister and Cabinet especially as parts of the NPSIB were developed to expressly give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. • Noted there is a spectrum of opinions about the NPSIB, some will support suspension and review and others will not. • Queried what the impact on consents and plans will be. • Concerns were raised that the suspension will mean that Councils choose not to review existing SNAs on Māori land. • Overall, they oppose policy that may harm taonga and further hinder Māori in using their own land. • Requested acknowledgement of Māori private property rights.
Local Authority officials Timaru District Council Gore District Council Napier City Council Waitaki District Council Auckland Council Dunedin City Council Waitaki District Council Central Otago District Council Waikato Regional Council Far North District Council Tauranga City Council Otago Regional Council Marlborough District Council Westcoast Regional Council	• Sought more time to make submissions as there has been no chance to consider impacts. • Expressed disappointment with the process, the uncertainty and a desire for clarity. • This has significant implications for Councils especially those with notified plans or who are working on variations and plan changes. Need to ensure these changes don't affect matters which are the subject of decisions being made now. • There will be repercussions for communities, councils and landowners. Concerned there will be unintended consequences and it will cause more issues than it solves. • Legal risks/implications for councils • Causes uncertainty - sought clarity about what planning processes to progress, Ministers intent and what effect on existing provisions. • Need clear communications and guidance. Need to make clear the difference between new and existing SNAs. • It should be noted that the SNA controversy has come from a few specific local issues. • Requested information about the scope and timeframe of the review. Questioned if there be further changes for councils to implement. • This will impact on Long Term Plan processes and budgets. Impact of costs of making further changes because of the review. • Already the implementation timeframes are tight, will they change? • Questioned how effective the pause will be as s6(c) matters remain, better to focus on the review. • Removing the regulatory measures will undermine the non-regulatory activities that are run by some councils. • Questioned if central government knows how many councils this affects? • It will affect international obligations. • Issues of equity if new SNAs are not progressed compared to those that are already identified in plans. • Concerned about the [detrimental] impacts on biodiversity.