Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Resource Management Act Reform Weekly Update

Whakanaketanga Whakarite Rawa Ahuarangi ā-Wiki

For the week ending 6 June 2025

Hon. Chris Bishop, Minister Responsible for Resource Management Act Reform

Key Updates

Update: Phase 2 National Direction engagement

Phase 2 National Direction Engagement
Indications are there is a lot of interest in this work.

Notification

- In addition to newspaper notices and letters advising of notification from yourself, letters went from the Secretary for the Environment to iwi authorities, local government, and core central government agencies, and an electronic direct mail message on notification went to 11,000 other people, groups and businesses.
- As requested by you, we notified all previous submitters on the *"Making it easier to build granny flats"* discussion document, of the updated granny flats proposal in the national direction consultation package. The rate of outreach has been successful as 99% of the email addresses provided by submitters received the notification email, and 65% of recipients opened the email within the first two working days of announcements. We note 1,893 of the total 1,970 previous submitters provided a valid email address.

Submissions

- Package 1-3 opened for submissions on 29 May, just after your press release.
- At 9am 4 June – 1,168 submissions have been received:
    - Packages 1 and 2: Infrastructure and Development and Primary Sector – 18 submissions. Currently granny flats and highly productive land are key topics in the submissions received.
    - Package 3: Freshwater – 1,150 submissions. Te Mana o te Wai is a key topic in the submissions received.

Webinars

- Four webinars are being held on Packages 1 and 2 – and they are in high demand.
    - By 9am on 3 June, all webinars were fully subscribed.
    - Another two webinars are being set up to enable more people to attend. Recordings of two webinars will be provided on our website.

Online Forums

- Seven online forums are being held to cover the national direction instruments in more depth by the end of June.
- Online forums are being held for PSGEs in early July.
- Other meetings with key stakeholders will be organised topic by topic.

Business Group: Environmental Management and Adaptation
Owner: Jo Gascoigne, 0275317202

Estimates 2025/26

Estimates 2025/26
The Environment Estimates Hearing is scheduled for 19 June. Minister Simmonds has invited you and Minister Hoggard to attend the hearing alongside her.

Pre-hearing Written Deliverables
We have prepared responses to the Supplementary Estimates Questionnaire (the Supplementary Questions) which we provided to your office on 4 June for review and feedback.

Minister Simmonds, as Vote Environment Minister, will lodge the Supplementary Questions with the Environment Committee on 12 June (one week prior to the hearing).

The hearing and supporting collateral
We are proactively putting together collateral to support you at the hearing, should you choose to attend.

Your office has not yet scheduled preparation sessions with Ministry officials.

Recommended action:
- Would you like to schedule preparation sessions with Ministry officials for the hearing?

Yes / No

Business Group: Office of the Chief Executive
Owner: Chelsea Cooper - Acting Manager Ministerial Services, 027 555 4367

Intensification Planning Instrument Progress

Process step	Council	IPI progress	Finish date (notify decisions on IHP recommendations)
Recommendations referred to Minister	Waikato District Council	Council referred two rejected IHP recommendations to you for a final decision on 31 October 2024. We provided you with advice on 3 April 2025 (BRF-5555 refers), and you made your decisions on 14 April 2025. You accepted one of the IHP recommendations and deferred your decision on the other. You wrote to the Council on 17 April 2025, informing them of your decisions.	22 October 2024 (completed on time)
	Christchurch City Council (NPS-UD Policy 3 and 4 parts of PC14)	Council made decisions on the balance of IHP recommendations required to give effect to Policies 3 and 4 of the NPS-UD on 2 December 2024, rejecting 20 recommendations. Council referred the rejected recommendations to you on 24 February 2025. We provided you with advice on 12 May 2025. You made your decisions on 25 May 2025, and we have provided your office with a press release and an updated response letter to send to the Council. This is due to be sent on 6 June.	20 December 2024 (completed on time)
In progress	Waimakariri District Council	Council must make decisions on IHP recommendations by 30 June 2025 and notify these decisions by 14 July 2025. The IHP has held all scheduled hearings and is now moving into the deliberations stage. You are meeting with Mayor Gordon of Waimakariri this week to discuss their IPI (Variation 1).	14 July 2025
	Christchurch City Council (MDRS parts of PC14)	Council has deferred decisions on those parts of its IPI not subject to Policies 3 and 4 of the NPS-UD (i.e., MDRS components). Council has requested a further extension to make decisions on the balance of its IPI. We provided advice (BRF-6127 refers), and you declined the request. You wrote to the Mayor of Christchurch on 9 May 2025, informing him of your decision.	12 December 2025
	Auckland Council (rest of PC78, non-Policy 3(a))	Hearing on 'Metropolitan Centre Outstanding Matters' scheduled for 3 June 2025.	31 March 2026

Process step	Council	IPI progress	Finish date (notify decisions on IHP recommendations)
Completed	Kāpiti Coast District Council	Completed.	20 August 2023
	Selwyn District Council	Completed.	20 August 2023
	Hutt City Council	Completed.	22 September 2023
	Porirua City Council	Completed.	14 December 2023
	Upper Hutt City Council	Completed.	20 December 2023
	Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Completed.	1 March 2024
	Wellington City Council	Completed.	20 March 2024
	Rotorua District Council	Completed.	31 March 2024
	Tauranga City Council	Completed (substantive IPI).	17 July 2024
	Waipā District Council	Nearly completed; Council to publicly notify your decisions on referred recommendations. Council staff have indicated this will be done by 1 July 2025.	30 August 2024
	Christchurch City Council	Partially completed (NPS-UD Policy 3 and 4 components, except for referred recommendations).	18 September 2024
	Tauranga City Council (Tauriko West)	Completed (Variation 1).	31 December 2025
	Hamilton City Council	Completed.	20 December 2024
	Auckland Council (Policy 3(a) parts of PC78)	Nearly completed; Council made decisions on IHP recommendations on 22 May, accepting all recommendations. Council to publicly notify its decisions on the city centre provisions, which will then become operative.	30 May 2025

Upcoming Briefings for Minister Bishop

Papers due to the Minister in the following 3 weeks
As at 1pm, 4 June 2025

Tracking Number	Title	Purpose	Responsible General Manager / Chief Advisor	Title Suitable for Proactive Release?	Date due to Minister
BRF-6309	Meeting with Mayor Dan Gordon (Waimakariri District Council)	Supports meeting with Mayor Gordon of Waimakariri District Council to discuss their intensification plan change.	Jessica Ranger	Y/N	Sent 3 June
BRF-6217	Replacing the RMA - Central Government's role in Spatial Plan decision-making	Seeks decisions on central government role in Spatial Planning.	Jessica Ranger	Y/N	Sent 3 June
BRF-6307	Talking points for Cabinet Economic Policy Committee 4 June 2025	Provides talking points to support ECO meeting.	Jessica Ranger	Y/N	Sent 3 June
BRF-6188	Replacing the RMA - Compliance and Enforcement	Seeks a decision on adding a number of the EAG Report's recommendations on compliance and enforcement to the new legislation.	Martyn Pinckard	Y/N	Sent 3 June
BRF-6077	Aide memoire: Ministry for Regulation Red Tape Portal Submissions Quarterly update (June 2025)	Provides an update on the themes of submissions received through the Red Tape Portal.	Kathleen Mackie	Y/N	Sent 4 June
BRF-6283	Further advice on increasing development capacity in Auckland and options for RM Bill 2	Provides further advice on increasing development capacity in Auckland and options for amendments to RM Bill 2.	Jessica Ranger	Y/N	5 June
BRF-6117	Replacing the RMA - System Funding and Cost Recovery	9(2)(f)(iv)	Martyn Pinckard	Y/N	TBC
BRF-6268	[redacted]	9(2)(f)(iv)	Hayden Johnston	Y/N	6 June

BRF-6327	Information on previous Natural and Built Environment Act provisions	Provides information requested by you regarding provisions in the (now repealed) Natural and Built Environment Act.	Hayden Johnston	Y/N	6 June
BRF-6300	[redacted]	9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]	Hayden Johnston	Y/N	11 June
BRF-6038	Replacing the RMA - Allocation and Freshwater Rights and Interests	Seeks decisions on the approach to allocation of natural resources, and freshwater rights and interests.	Hayden Johnston	Y/N	12 June
BRF-6045	Replacing the RMA - Regulatory Takings and Justification Reports	Seeks decisions on regulatory takings and justification reports.	Jessica Ranger	Y/N	12 June
BRF-6151	Replacing the RMA - Coastal marine area	Seeks decisions on aspects relating to the Coastal Marine Area.	Hayden Johnston	Y/N	19 June
BRF-6246	9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]	9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]	Martyn Pinckard	Y/N	19 June
BRF-6312	Next steps for the National Adaptation Framework	Provides advice to support forthcoming discussions on next steps for the National Adaptation Framework.	Katherine Wilson	Y/N	19 June
BRF-6119	Replacing the RMA - mop up	Seeks decisions on the residual matters not decided in previous briefings.	Martyn Pinckard	Y/N	26 June
BRF-6116	Replacing the RMA – Approach for transition timing	Seeks decisions on the overarching approach to transition from the current Act to the two new Bills.	Martyn Pinckard	Y/N	26 June
BRF-6149	Replacing the RMA - implementation	Seeks decisions on outstanding implementation matters and feedback on the implementation approach.	Gina McGrath	Y/N	26 June
BRF-6142	Replacing the RMA - Planning Tribunal	Defines purpose, function and duties of the Planning Tribunal.	Martyn Pinckard	Y/N	26 June

Cabinet Papers

As at 1pm, 4 June 2025

Tracking Number	Title	Description	Committee	Responsible General Manager	Date due to Minister's Office	Lodgement Date	Date of Committee Meeting	Date of Cabinet Meeting
CAB-562	Further Policy Decisions for Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill	Seeks agreement to make changes to the Bill via an Amendment Paper.	ECO	Jessica Ranger	21 May	29 May	4 June	9 June
CAB-535	Te Awa Tupua | Whanganui River - Te Pou Tupua: APH documentation to confirm joint appointments	Provides documents for reappointments to the Office of Te Pou Tupua.	APH	Martin Workman	19 February	TBC	TBC	TBC

Ministerial Correspondence Update

As at 1pm, 4 June 2025

We are preparing responses to 32 pieces of correspondence on a wide range of topics including concerns for Heritage listed buildings and areas, resource consenting issues for riverbed gravel extraction and wedding venues, recommendations for RMA reform, requests to opt out of identified Significant Natural Areas, concerns about a solar farm in Upper Hutt, concerns with housing growth and residential standards, requests for updates on Christchurch City Council's Plan Change 14, concerns around the costs of resource consenting, issues with granny flat policy and consenting, requests to uphold Treaty settlements and Te Tiriti obligations, and potential for the Fast-track process to enable large-scale grocery retail entry.

Written Parliamentary Questions Update

As at 1pm, 4 June 2025

We are preparing responses to written parliamentary questions on the Government's commitment to national environmental bottom lines and protection of human health for freshwater as part of phase 3 of resource management reform.