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Plan (and Policy Statement) Stop Exemption Application Template

The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 halts new and in-progress council plan changes. This applies to all plan changes except for those automatically exempted or granted an exemption through an application to the Minister for the Environment.

This application form is for councils that wish to continue with their plan-making and do not meet the auto-exemption criteria, but do meet the application exemption criteria (s80W). The application will be provided to the minister to determine whether an extension should be granted.

## In-progress plan or policy statement changes

Within 90 working days of the law coming into effect, councils must withdraw any notified plan or policy statement changes that have not yet commenced hearings, or do not have a hearing date scheduled within five days of enactment. The only exception to this is where a plan is automatically exempted or is granted an exemption.

The application must be submitted within 90 working days of the law coming into effect.

## New plan or policy statement changes

Any council that is seeking to make a new plan or policy statement changes must first seek an exemption using this form. An exemption must be granted before the council notifies a new plan or policy statement change.

This form is not required for plan or policy statement changes which are automatically exempt as per section 80U (Automatic exemptions) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

## 1. Council information

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| Council name |  |
| Contact person |  |
| Position |  |
| Email / phone |  |

## 2. Details of proposed planning instrument

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| --- | --- |
| Title of proposed plan or policy statement change |  |
| Title of relevant planning instrument (plan or policy statement being amended) |  |
| Link to relevant planning instrument (or attach a copy to the application form) |  |
| Link to proposed plan or policy statement change (or attach a copy to the application form), if applicable |  |
| Stage of process (e.g., council approved, pre-notification, notified, submissions received, etc.) |  |
| Date of notification, if applicable |  |

## 3. Brief description of the proposed plan or policy statement change and its scope

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## 4. Grounds for exemption request

Section 80W lists the criteria the minister may consider for granting an exemption. Select any that apply and explain how the plan or policy statement change will meet the criteria. The criteria are:

* better enable the local authority to provide, operate or maintain municipal drinking water, stormwater or wastewater in accordance with the Water Services Act 2021
* rectify any provisions in a plan or policy statement that have had unintended consequences, are unworkable, or have led to inefficient outcomes
* respond to changes made to the RMA
* better enable climate change to be managed
* support the transition of high-risk land so as to better manage the risk of erosion
* better enable any relevant Treaty of Waitangi settlement Act, or deed of settlement and the Crown’s obligations under that settlement, to be upheld
* enable a response to be made to a recommendation from the Environment Court
* enable work to be progressed that, for any other reason, the minister considers appropriate.

## 5. Timing and urgency

Explain any time-critical need to proceed with the plan change before the transition under the RMA reform process.

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## 6. Alignment with Government priorities

Explain how the proposed plan supports national direction, legislative intent or critical local needs.

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## 7. Consequences of not proceeding

Describe the risks or impacts if the exemption is not granted (such as housing shortfalls, hazard exposure or legal obligations).

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## 8. Benefits of proceeding

Describe the benefits (if any) of proceeding with the exemption.

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## 9. Supporting documents

Include any relevant maps, reports, legal advice or community engagement summaries. It would be helpful to understand if any stakeholder consultation, including tangata whenua engagement, has occurred on the proposal. If available, you may wish to supply a s32 report.

If you are seeking to publicly notify a draft planning instrument, a detailed summary of the draft planning instrument is required.

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## 10. Outcome requested

☐ Full exemption to continue or notify the proposed plan or policy statement change

☐ Partial exemption (specify portions, sections or purposes excluded from the national moratorium)

☐ Other (for example, some local authorities may need permission to vary the plan change as it progresses)

## 10. Declaration

I declare that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete.

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| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Local authority |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |