



PROACTIVE RELEASE COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Chris Bishop Hon Tama Potaka	Portfolio	RMA Reform Housing Conservation
Name of package	Proactive Release of Cabinet paper 606: Updating RMA National Direction: Approval for submission to Executive Council	Date to be published	13 March 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
3 December 2025	Cabinet paper 606: Updating RMA National Direction: Approval for submission to Executive Council	Ministry for the Environment Department of Conservation
15 December 2025	Report of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee Minute (CAB-25-MIN-0476)	Cabinet Office
10 December 2025	Cabinet Economic Policy Committee Minute (ECO-25-MIN-0216)	Cabinet Office

Information redacted **YES**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with the Ministry for the Environment's policy on proactive release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Summary of reasons for redaction

- Out of scope information has been removed from the Cabinet Minute of Decision CAB-25- Min-0476

In-Confidence

Office of the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

Office of the Minister of Conservation

Chair, Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Updating RMA National Direction: Approval for submission to Executive Council

Proposal

1. This paper seeks Cabinet authorisation to submit the following new and amended national policy statements and national environmental standards to the Executive Council:
 - 1.1 new Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025¹ (NES-DMRU).
 - 1.2 a new National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025 (December 2025) (NPS-NH).
 - 1.3 amendments to the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 (amended December 2025) (NPS-HPL).
 - 1.4 targeted amendments to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (amended December 2025) (NZCPS).
 - 1.5 targeted amendments to the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (amended December 2025) (NPSIB) related to quarrying and mining.
 - 1.6 targeted amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (amended December 2025) (NPS-FM) related to quarrying and mining.
 - 1.7 targeted amendments to the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NES-F) relating to quarrying and mining referred to as Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025.
 - 1.8 a new National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025 (NPS-I).
 - 1.9 amendments to the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (amended December 2025) (NPS-REG).
 - 1.10 a National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 (NPS-EN) Amended December 2025 (previously National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008).

¹ This instrument name was notified as the National Environmental Standards for Granny Flats.

Executive Summary

2. Cabinet agreed to develop and amend RMA national direction [CAB-24-MIN-0246 refers] and commence public notification and statutory consultation on four packages² [ECO-25-MIN-0059 refers]. This is the biggest package of national direction instruments being updated at one time. It will have an immediate impact on the performance of the resource management system by removing planning barriers for infrastructure, development and primary sector activities and making consenting less complex and costly.
3. Discussion documents for packages 1-3 were released in May 2025, and for package 4 in June 2025, for 8 weeks public consultation.
4. We have considered submissions and recommendations reports³ for the first instruments in packages 1 and 2 (subject of this paper). The Minister of Conservation made policy decisions to amend the NZCPS while the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform made policy decisions on all other instruments included in this paper. We made final policy decisions on each instrument in consultation with our Ministerial colleagues with portfolio responsibilities under the power to act from Cabinet [CAB-25-MIN-0151 refers].
5. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) have worked collaboratively with the agencies responsible for the policy proposals to draft the national policy statement instruments. For amendments to national policy statements, both consolidated instruments (the full instrument with amendments incorporated) and amendment instruments (changes proposed to the current instrument) are attached to this paper and both will be published on Government websites once approved. The amendment instrument is the official document required to be approved by the Governor-General in Council.
6. We are now seeking Cabinet authorisation to submit these instruments to the Executive Council. We are satisfied that the statutory requirements set out in sections 44⁴, 46A⁵ and 52(1)⁶ and 53(1)⁷ of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) have been met.
7. The instruments are proposed to come into force on 15 January 2026, 28 days after the Government Gazette notice proposed for 18 December 2025. The requirements to notify the national environmental standards and national policy statements and the submissions and recommendations reports made under section 46A(1)(c) of the RMA

² Package 1: Infrastructure and development, Package 2: Primary sector, Package 3: Freshwater, and Package 4: Going for Housing Growth.

³ The submissions and recommendations reports were prepared to meet the requirements of section 46A(1)(c) of the RMA.

⁴ Section 44(1) and (2) set the requirements before the Minister may recommend making a national environmental standard to the Governor-General including complying with the process steps in s46A(1) and (2), and considering and publicly notifying the report and recommendations (prepared under s46A(1)(c)). It also provides discretion for the Minister to make changes to the proposed national environmental standards.

⁵ Section 46A(1)-(3) sets out the process steps for public and iwi authority notice of proposals, requires a report and recommendations on submissions and the subject matter of the proposal that considers Part 2 matters.

⁶ Section 52(1) requires the Minister to consider a report and recommendations prepared under section 46A(1)(c) and provides discretion to make changes to proposed national policy statements.

⁷ Section 53(1) enables the Minister to review, change or revoke a national policy statement following the process under section 46A.

and release a summary of recommendations and the Ministers' decisions, will be met following approval⁸ of the national environmental standards and national policy statements.

8. Recommendations and decisions on remaining RMA national direction proposals are currently in preparation and will be reported to Cabinet as soon as practicable in 2026.

Policy

All instruments

9. Progressing packages 1 and 2 will address systemic issues within the resource management system. These changes align with government priorities and will deliver immediate improvements in consenting infrastructure, housing, urban development, and primary sector activities under the RMA. These instruments can also be adapted and integrated into the new resource management system.
10. Following consideration of issues raised in submissions, we made policy decisions on the instruments to respond to issues raised (where appropriate) and to improve clarity, workability and consistency of the proposals. The reports on recommendations and decisions record policy decisions on changes we made to the proposals following public notification. Those changes were discussed with our Ministerial colleagues with responsibility for relevant portfolios [CAB-24-MIN-0246 refers].

Interaction between proposed National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) (Granny Flats) and building consent exemption

11. Through the drafting process, Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) has advised officials to highlight the interaction between the proposed Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025 (NES-DMRU) and the corresponding building consent exemption in Schedule 1A of the Building Act 2004.
12. While the building and resource management systems for detached minor residential units (MRU) have been designed to be complementary, they are separate legislative requirements, and may be amended in the future independently.
13. Persons wishing to build a detached MRU will need to consider all relevant requirements under both systems. There may be circumstances where a homeowner seeking to build a detached MRU will require a resource consent and/or a building consent. For instance, if a district plan allows a detached MRU up to 80 square metres (and all other NES requirements are met), no resource consent would be needed. However, a building consent would still be required as this would exceed the 70 square metres limit in Schedule 1A of the Building Act 2004. Similarly, a resource consent may be required where the construction of a detached MRU involves earthworks that trigger resource consent requirements, but a building consent is not required.

Regulatory instruments

14. We now seek Cabinet's agreement to the final instruments (subject of this paper).

⁸ Approval refers to approval by the Governor-General in Council.

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15. The instruments and their area of impact, and the appendix number of relevant instruments and amendment instruments,⁹ is set out in the table below.

Regulatory instrument	Area of impact
Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025 (Appendix 1 NES-DMRU)	New regulation to reduce regulatory requirements for detached minor residential units (granny flats).
National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025 (December 2025) (Appendix 2 NPS-NH)	A consistent approach for managing natural hazard risks in new development.
National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 (amended December 2025) (Appendix 3 NPS-HPL Consolidated) (Appendix 4 NPS-HPL Amendment)	Targeted amendments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exempt urban rezoning and development on LUC 3 land from NPS-HPL restrictions. • extend timeframes for mapping HPL. • reduce restrictions for quarrying and mining on highly productive land.
New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (amended December 2025) (Appendix 5 NZCPS Consolidated) (Appendix 6 NZCPS Amendment)	Targeted amendments to better enable the Government's priority activities (infrastructure, renewable electricity generation, electricity transmission, aquaculture activities and resource extraction) to locate in the coastal environment including the coastal marine area.
National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (amended December 2025) (Appendix 7 NPSIB Consolidated) (Appendix 8 NPSIB Amendment)	Targeted amendments to reduce restrictions for quarrying and mining activities affecting significant natural areas.
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (amended December 2025) (Appendix 9 NPS-FM Consolidated) (Appendix 10 NPS-FM Amendment Instrument)	Targeted amendments to reduce restrictions for quarrying and mining activities in natural inland wetlands.
Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 Amendment Regulations 2025) (Appendix 11 NES-F Consolidated)	Targeted amendments to reduce restrictions for quarrying and mining activities in natural inland wetlands.

⁹ Proposals to amend an existing instrument include an 'amended instrument' document summarising the changes to the existing instrument and the full instrument.

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Regulatory instrument	Area of impact
National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025 (December 2025) (Appendix 12 NPS-I Consolidated)	New policy to manage and enable infrastructure development.
National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (amended December 2025) (Appendix 13 NPS-REG Consolidated) (Appendix 14 NPS-REG Amendment)	Amendments to enable a significant increase in renewable electricity generation to improve security and resilience of electricity supply and to achieve emission reduction and energy targets.
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 Amended December 2025 (Previously National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008) (Appendix 15 NPS-EN Consolidated) (Appendix 16 NPS-EN Amendment)	Amendments to enable electricity networks for electrification of the economy, support transition to renewable electricity generation.

Timing and 28-day rule

16. Once approved by the Executive Council, these instruments are proposed to be gazetted on 18 December 2025, and to come into force on 15 January 2026.
17. In accordance with section 114 of the Legislation Act and Standing Order 325A, all instruments will be presented in the House of Representatives no later than 20 days following gazettal.

Compliance

18. The instruments comply with:
 - 18.1 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 or the Human Rights Act 1993.
 - 18.2 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020.
 - 18.3 relevant international standards and obligations.
 - 18.4 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee.
19. The Minister Responsible for RMA Reform and the Minister of Conservation are satisfied that the consultation process for the proposals provided adequate time and opportunity for submissions from the public and iwi authorities and the statutory requirements set out in sections 44, 46A and 52 of the RMA have been met.
20. Therefore, we recommend that Cabinet authorises the instruments to be submitted to the Executive Council.

Principles of Treaty of Waitangi

21. The Crown has ongoing commitments¹⁰ to individual iwi through Treaty settlement legislation and other arrangements. Officials identified Treaty settlement commitments alongside submissions and recommendations reports.
22. The proposals do not propose to change the mechanisms that provide for Treaty settlements or other arrangements. They may add some complexities for policy and consenting in the Waikato region, when considering the interaction with Te Ture Whaimana, as it prevails over national policy statements.
23. The Crown and councils will need to engage with iwi and hapūwho have interests and settlements covering areas included in the proposed instruments when implementing policies, to ensure that implementation is consistent with settlement commitments.

Regulations Review Committee

24. We are confident that there are no grounds for the Regulations Review Committee to draw these instruments to the attention of the House of Representatives under Standing Order 319.

Certification by Parliamentary Counsel and Chief Legal Advisors

25. The new Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025 and the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025 have been certified by the PCO as being in order for submission to Cabinet.
26. The new National Policy Statements for Natural Hazards and Infrastructure, and amendments to the National Policy Statements for Highly Productive Land, Indigenous Biodiversity, Freshwater Management, Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission (now Electricity Networks) have been drafted by the Ministry for the Environment. Amendments to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement have been drafted by the Department of Conservation in collaboration with the Ministry for the Environment.
27. A vires review of the proposed amended national policy statements has been undertaken and confirmed that they are within the scope of the RMA.

Impact Analysis

Regulatory Impact Statement

28. Eight Interim Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIS) were prepared and released for public consultation and have since been updated and finalised to reflect the impacts of the final proposals in accordance with the necessary requirements. These final RIS are attached as **Appendices 17 to 24** of this paper.

¹⁰ The commitments most relevant to the proposals are engagement obligations when developing national direction, and direct obligations to take action (ie, recognising legal status of taonga) or obligations to actively involve Treaty partners in plan making or resource consents either through co-governance, decision-making or consultation.

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29. The following table outlines the rating each of these RIS received following the independent quality assurance process.

RIS name	Associated regulatory instrument(s)	Quality Assurance rating
Regulatory Impact Statement: National Environmental Standards for minor residential units (granny flats) (Appendix 17)	Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025	Fully meets
Regulatory Impact Statement: National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards (Appendix 18)	National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025	Fully meets
Regulatory Impact Statement: Amending the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (Appendix 19)	National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 (amended December 2025)	Partially meets
Regulatory Impact Statement: New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement amendments to Policies 6 and 8 (Appendix 20)	New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (amended December 2025)	Partially meets
Regulatory Impact Statement: Providing consistent and more enabling pathways for consent for quarrying and mining affecting significant natural areas, highly productive land and wetlands (Appendix 21)	National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 (amended December 2025) National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (amended December 2025) National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (amended December 2025) Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025	Partially meets
Regulatory Impact Statement: National Policy Statement for Infrastructure (Appendix 22)	National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025	Partially meets
Regulatory Impact Statement: Proposed amendments to the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation (Appendix 23)	National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (amended December 2025)	Partially meets
Regulatory Impact Statement: National Policy	National Policy Statement on Electricity Networks 2008	Partially meets

RIS name	Associated regulatory instrument(s)	Quality Assurance rating
Statement for Electricity Networks, 2025 amendments to NPS-ET 2008 (Appendix 24)	Amended December 2025 (Previously National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008)	

30. Further details regarding the regulatory impact assessment quality process and final quality statements are included in Appendix 25.

Publicity

31. The new and amended regulations and national policy statements will be publicised through public notices in newspapers, Government website updates, responses to submitters and letters to local authorities, iwi authorities, post-settlement governance entities (PSGEs), and Customary Marine Title (CMT) holders.

Proactive release

32. We propose to proactively release the Cabinet paper in early 2026 with redactions in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

Consultation

33. MfE has provided a draft of this paper to agencies who report to a Minister with either portfolio responsibilities or related responsibilities¹¹ and have incorporated their feedback into this paper.

34. Amendments have been made to the proposed NPS-I in response to a Ministry of Transport (MoT) request to amend the definition of 'strategic planning document' to ensure it references both regional and national land transport plans and the Ministry of Health's request to replace the sub-definition¹² of a 'hospital care institution' with a 'health facility.' These changes make it clearer that decision makers should refer to both regional and national transport plan documents when considering consent applications, notices of requirement, and plan changes and align with recent changes to the Health Futures (Pae Ora) Amendment Bill.¹³

35. No other changes to instruments are recommended in response to agency comments as matters raised can be addressed through mechanisms such as non-statutory guidance or clarification of policy intent with the relevant agencies.

¹¹ Agencies provided with a draft of this paper include the Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Department of Internal Affairs, Treasury, Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Te Puni Kōkiri, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry for Regulation, Parliamentary Counsel Office, Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana – Te Tari Whakataua and Land Information New Zealand.

¹² This is a sub-definition of 'additional infrastructure'.

¹³ This will amend the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022.

Recommendations

The Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and the Minister of Conservation in relation to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 , recommend:

- 1 **note** advice from the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and the Minister of Conservation in relation to the NZCPS, that the statutory requirements under the Resource Management Act 1991 which must be completed prior to recommending making and amending RMA national direction for the instruments have been met, including:
 - 1.1 notification of the proposals (section 46A(1) and (2)); and
 - 1.2 consideration of reports on submissions and recommendations for the proposals (section 46A(1)(c), 44(2)(a) and 52(1)(a));
- 2 **note** that the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and the Minister of Conservation in relation to the NZCPS, have made policy decisions to amend the proposals (under section 44(2) and 52(1) of the RMA), in consultation with relevant portfolio Ministers, under the power to act from Cabinet [CAB-25-MIN-0151 refers];
- 3 **note** that the Parliamentary Counsel Office has certified the draft NES-DMRU and amendments to the NES-F regulations as being in order for submission to Cabinet;
- 4 **note** that the Ministry for the Environment's Chief Legal Advisor, and the Department of Conservation's Chief Legal Advisor in relation to the NZCPS, have confirmed the new national policy statement instruments and amendment instruments have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991 and are in order for submission to Cabinet;
- 5 **authorise** submission of the following instruments to the Executive Council for recommendation to the Governor-General in Council for approval under section 43 and 52(2) of the Resource Management Act 1991;
 - 5.1 Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025
 - 5.2 National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025 (December 2025)
 - 5.3 National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land Amendment 2025
 - 5.4 New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Amendment 2025
 - 5.5 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity Amendment 2025
 - 5.6 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Amendment 2025
 - 5.7 Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025
 - 5.8 National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025 (December 2025)
 - 5.9 National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation Amendment 2025
 - 5.10 National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Amendment 2025

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- 6 **note** that the proposed regulations, national policy statements and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement listed in recommendation 5 will give effect to the policy decisions referred to in recommendation 2;
- 7 **note** that the proposed regulations, national policy statements and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement listed in recommendation 5 are proposed to come into force on 15 January 2026;
- 8 **agree** to submit the instruments to the Executive Council immediately following approval by the Legislation Committee and Cabinet;
- 9 **note** the advice from the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform that the requirements of section 43(5), section 44 and section 52(3) of the Resource Management Act 1991 to publicly notify the national environmental standards and national policy statements and the report, and recommendations made under section 46A (1)(c), will be actioned following approval of the national environmental standards and national policy statements; and
- 10 **note** that final proofing and formatting changes may be made prior to publishing the Cabinet package on Government websites, but there will be no material changes to the content of the Cabinet package.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation

IN CONFIDENCE

Appendices

Appendix 1: NES-DMRU

Appendix 2: NPS-NH

Appendix 3: NPS-HPL Consolidated

Appendix 4: NPS-HPL Amendment

Appendix 5: NZCPS Consolidated

Appendix 6: NZCPS Amendment

Appendix 7: NPSIB Consolidated

Appendix 8: NPSIB Amendment

Appendix 9: NPS-FM Consolidated

Appendix 10: NPS-FM Amendment

Appendix 11: NES-F

Appendix 12: NPS-I

Appendix 13: NPS-REG Consolidated

Appendix 14: NPS-REG Amendment

Appendix 15: NPS-EN Consolidated

Appendix 16: NPS-EN Amendment

Appendix 17: Regulatory Impact Statement: National Environmental Standards for minor residential units (granny flats)

Appendix 18: Regulatory Impact Statement: National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards

Appendix 19: Regulatory Impact Statement: Amending the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land

Appendix 20: Regulatory Impact Statement: New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement amendments to Policies 6 and 8

Appendix 21: Regulatory Impact Statement: Providing consistent and more enabling pathways for consent for quarrying and mining affecting significant natural areas, highly productive land and wetlands

Appendix 22: Regulatory Impact Statement: National Policy Statement for Infrastructure

Appendix 23: Regulatory Impact Statement: Proposed amendments to the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011

Appendix 24: Regulatory Impact Statement: National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks, 2025 amendments to the NPS-ET 2008

Appendix 25: Regulatory Impact Statements Quality Assurance Rating



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Report of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee: Period Ended 12 December 2025

On 15 December 2025, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee for the period ended 12 December 2025:

Out of scope	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
ECO-25-MIN-0216	Updating RMA National Direction: Approval for Submission to Executive Council Portfolios: RMA Reform / Conservation	CONFIRMED
Out of scope	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Out of scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

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Updating RMA National Direction: Approval for Submission to Executive Council

Portfolio **RMA Reform / Conservation**

On 10 December 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** the advice from the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and the Minister of Conservation in relation to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS), that the statutory requirements under the Resource Management Act 1991 which must be completed prior to recommending making and amending RMA national direction for the instruments have been met, including:
 - 1.1 notification of the proposals (section 46A(1) and (2)); and
 - 1.2 consideration of reports on submissions and recommendations for the proposals (section 46A(1)(c), 44(2)(a) and 52(1)(a));
- 2 **noted** that the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and the Minister of Conservation, in relation to the NZCPS, have made policy decisions to amend the proposals (under section 44(2) and 52(1) of the RMA), in consultation with relevant portfolio Ministers, under delegated authority from Cabinet [ECO-25-MIN-0059];
- 3 **noted** that the Parliamentary Counsel Office has certified the following as being in order for submission to Cabinet:
 - 3.1 the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025;
 - 3.2 the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025;
- 4 **noted** that the Ministry for the Environment's Chief Legal Advisor, and the Department of Conservation's Chief Legal Advisor, in relation to the NZCPS, have confirmed the new national policy statement instruments and amendment instruments have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the RMA and are in order for submission to Cabinet;
- 5 **authorised** submission of the following instruments to the Executive Council;
 - 5.1 Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025 [PCO 28427/13.0];
 - 5.2 National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025 (December 2025);

- 5.3 National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land Amendment 2025;
- 5.4 New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Amendment 2025;
- 5.5 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity Amendment 2025;
- 5.6 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Amendment 2025;
- 5.7 Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025 [PCO 28539/5.0];
- 5.8 National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025 (December 2025);
- 5.9 National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation Amendment 2025;
- 5.10 National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Amendment 2025;
- 6 **noted** that the regulations, national policy statements and New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement listed above will give effect to the policy decisions referred to in paragraph 2 above;
- 7 **noted** that the regulations, national policy statements and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement listed in paragraph 5 above will come into force on 15 January 2026;
- 8 **noted** the advice from the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform that the requirements of section 43(5), section 44 and section 52(3) of the RMA to publicly notify the national environmental standards and national policy statements and the report, and recommendations made under section 46A (1)(c), will be actioned following approval of the national environmental standards and national policy statements;
- 9 **noted** that final proofing and formatting changes may be made prior to publishing the Cabinet package under ECO-25-SUB-0216 on Government websites, but there will be no material changes to the content of the Cabinet package.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Chris Bishop
Office of Hon Judith Collins KC
Office of Hon Simon Watts
Officials Committee for ECO