



## PROACTIVE RELEASE COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Chris Bishop	<b>Portfolio</b>	Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
<b>Name of package</b>	Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill – Approval for Amendment Paper	<b>Date to be published</b>	27 March 2026

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
4 June 2025	CAB-562: Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill – Approval for Amendment Paper	Ministry for the Environment
4 June 2025	Cabinet Economic Policy Committee Minute of Decision: Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill – Approval for Amendment Paper	Cabinet Office
31 July 2025	LEG 557: Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill: Approval to release Amendment Papers and Amendments to the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Regulations 1999 (the Regulations)	Ministry for the Environment
31 July 2025	Cabinet Legislation Committee Minute of Decision: Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill: Amendment Papers and Amendment Regulations	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

Information in these documents has been withheld under the following grounds:

- S9(2)(h) – to maintain legal professional privilege.

**IN CONFIDENCE****Policy and Privacy****In-Confidence**

Office of the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

ECO – Economic Policy Committee

**Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill: Approval for Amendment Paper****Proposal**

1. This paper seeks agreement to policy proposals to progress through an Amendment Paper to the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill (the Bill).
2. This paper also seeks authorisation for the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and where appropriate, the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, to:
  - 2.1 make further policy decisions that are consistent with the recommendations made in this Cabinet paper,
  - 2.2 instruct the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft these amendments for inclusion in the Bill.

**Relation to government priorities**

3. The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill was approved by Cabinet for introduction on 9 December 2024 [CAB-24-MIN-0492 refers]. The Bill advances Government priorities to make it easier to consent new infrastructure, including renewable energy; build houses; and enhance the primary sector.

**Executive summary**

4. The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill was introduced as part of phase two of the work programme to reform the resource management system, and Cabinet agreed to enact the legislation by mid-2025 [ECO-24-MIN-0113].
5. The Bill is currently before the Environment Select Committee. They are due to report back by June 17, 2025.
6. I propose progressing amendments to better position the Bill to deliver on this Government's priorities to unlock development in infrastructure, housing, and primary industries, and drive a more efficient and effective resource management system. I am seeking your agreement to:
  - 6.1 stop unnecessary plan (and regional policy statement) work from progressing under the RMA, with some exemptions,
  - 6.2 constrain council ability to review consent conditions for marine farms under section 128 of the RMA and extend the bespoke review process under the

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Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Act 2024, and

- 6.3 address the unintended consequences of the restriction on notifying freshwater planning instruments in relation to Otago Regional Council's Regional Plan: Water for Otago.
  - 6.4 remove heritage protections for Gordon Wilson Flats in Wellington City Council's Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) plan,
  - 6.5 strengthen the requirements of the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and related processes to better enable development capacity,
  - 6.6 enable a new regulation making power that would enable provisions in RMA plans to be modified or removed if they negatively impact development capacity or the cost of housing, subject to appropriate safeguards,
7. I also seek agreement to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) on this paper, and for authority to make policy decisions consistent with the recommendations made in this Cabinet paper that are necessary to instruct drafting. I will return to Cabinet in July 2025 to seek approval to introduce an Amendment Paper at the Committee of the Whole House.

**Background***Stopping plan and regional policy statement reviews and changes*

- 8. The RMA is in the progress of being replaced with two separate Acts – the Planning Act and Natural Environment Act. Some of the key features of the new system will include a narrowed approach to effects management and greater use of standardisation.
- 9. There are inefficiencies in councils commencing new planning work and continuing to progress plan and policy statement changes in advance of the new system being in place. A lot of this work may not be completed or implemented by the time the new system takes effect. It is also unlikely that work will transfer well into the new system. I am proposing that we stop most plan change processes under the RMA, with the exception of planning processes that I consider are necessary to unlock the economic growth we need in NZ and deliver on Government priorities.

*Constrain council ability to review consent conditions for marine farmers during the transition period for the RMA reform*

- 10. The Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Act 2024 (Extended Duration Act) introduced a bespoke mechanism for councils to initiate a review of the conditions of extended consents within two years of the Extended Duration Act coming into force. The bespoke review process can also only be used once per consent and at the council's own cost.
- 11. Councils can also use section 128 of the RMA to review consents, which can be cost recovered by councils and does not have the same constraints as the bespoke review process. Marlborough District Council (MDC) has indicated that it may review 55-80 consents under section 128, which could result in marine farmers having to move/remove some of their structures.

**IN CONFIDENCE***Legislative solution for unintended consequences in the Regional Plan: Water for Otago identified after the pause on plan notification*

12. The Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024 (the Amendment Act) restricted the notification of freshwater planning instruments until a new national policy statement for freshwater management is released, or until 31 December 2025. Otago Regional Council (ORC) has indicated this pause has unintended consequences for them, most of which will take effect in April 2026, when some short-term water permits expire and changes to plan provisions related to rural diffuse discharges take effect. The Amendment Act included a process to allow freshwater planning instruments to be exempted if they met certain criteria.
13. My officials explored the exemption pathway with ORC but concluded that it would not work due to timeframe complexities and consultation requirements.

*Removing heritage protections for Gordon Wilson Flats in Wellington City Council's RMA plans*

14. Gordon Wilson Flats is a Category 1 historic place on the New Zealand Heritage List Rārangī Kōrero by Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT). Wellington City Council's RMA plan provides the building with heritage protections, which create additional barriers to potential redevelopment of this strategically important site.
15. Gordon Wilson Flats was vacated in mid-2012 when an engineer's report identified the need for urgent remedial work. It has since fallen into further disrepair. There have been two previous attempts to remove Gordon Wilson Flats' heritage protections in Wellington City Council's RMA plan but both have been unsuccessful.

*Strengthening Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and related processes to enable development capacity*

16. Auckland Council made decisions on the NPS-UD city centre intensification provisions in Plan Change 78 (PC78) on 22 May 2025. It is government policy that the Bill will enable Auckland Council to withdraw the remainder of PC78, with a requirement to notify a new plan change to give effect to development capacity and intensification requirements. I am proposing to strengthen the requirements for the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and related processes, to ensure it provides the development capacity and intensification needed.

*Inserting a new regulation making power to modify or remove RMA plan provisions that negatively impact development capacity or the cost of housing*

17. The flexibility and responsiveness of housing and urban development markets has a national impact on the provision of housing, particularly in our largest cities. However, the broad discretion of the RMA can enable councils to include local objectives, policies and rules in their plans that may have a negative impact on the development capacity or the cost of housing.

**Analysis***Stopping plan and regional policy statement reviews and changes*

18. Planning processes under the RMA are continuing to take up valuable council resources while we progress work to replace the RMA. I am concerned that some of

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these changes will likely be redundant or need significant rework to align with the new system. To remedy this, I propose amending the Bill to:

- 18.1 stop the notification of new reviews and changes to RMA plans and regional policy statements until 31 December 2027,
  - 18.2 stop any plan (and regional policy statement) reviews and changes that have been notified and a date has not yet been set to commence a hearing, or is at least five working days before the date fixed for the commencement of the hearing, and any notified rules with immediate legal effect will no longer apply.
19. However, there are specific plans that need to continue to further the Government's priorities regarding housing and economic growth. For this reason, I propose two exemption pathways as part of this proposal:
- 19.1 an automatic exemption for certain plan changes, including those progressing through the streamlined planning process and intensification streamlined planning process, private plan changes, changes to implement new national direction provisions, plan changes and reviews called in by the Minister, and any plan changes to Minister of Conservation's Regional Coastal Plan for Kermadec and Subantarctic Islands, and
  - 19.2 an application process for councils to progress certain work, based on an exemption criteria. I would take further policy decisions on this as Minister Responsible for RMA Reform.
20. Stopping these processes means that council time and resources will not be wasted on unnecessary changes and councils can instead focus on preparing for transition to the new resource management system.

*Constrain council ability to review consent conditions for marine farmers during the transition period for the RMA reform*

21. To ensure marine farmers have operational certainty during the transition period for RMA reform, I propose constraining council ability to use section 128 to review an extended marine farm consent and extending the bespoke review mechanism introduced by the Extended Duration Act for 6 years from when the Extended Duration Act came into effect.
22. I propose that councils will continue to be able to review marine farm consents using section 128 where it is necessary to manage critical risks or achieve government aims.

*Legislative solution for unintended consequences in the Regional Plan: Water for Otago identified after the pause on plan notification*

23. Otago Regional Council (ORC) has identified some unintended consequences of the Amendment Act progressed in 2024 that cannot be remedied by the exemption pathway before April 2026. I am therefore seeking agreement to a legislative amendment that would reduce costs and provide greater certainty in the short term for consent holders and farmers who may be affected by the rural diffuse discharge rules. This solution would:
  - 23.1 Extend the expiry dates of specified water permits for approximately 500+ consent holders with consents expiring between 2026 and 2030. This

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amendment stops the need for short duration consent holders to apply for a second short duration consent and provides legal certainty for these consent holders while the new RM system is implemented. ORC estimate that deposits for water permit consents range between \$3,000 - \$25,000.

- 23.2 Amend rules relating to the controlled activity pathway in Chapter 10A of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago, so that where a consent holder replaces an existing permit or an applicant applies for a new permit, they are subject to the same short term consent duration but have the benefit of a controlled activity pathway.
- 23.3 Prevent certain provisions of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago that relate to rural diffuse discharges from having legal effect. Without this amendment, my officials estimate there would be approximately 3,300 farmers that currently operate lawfully, that would require resource consent for diffuse discharges by April 2026. Costs per discharge consent are estimated by ORC to be between \$15,000-\$50,000.

*Removing heritage protections for Gordon Wilson Flats in Wellington City Council's RMA plan*

24. I propose amending the Bill to specifically remove heritage protections from Gordon Wilson Flats in the Wellington City Council's RMA plans. This approach would remove the building's protected heritage status and remove significant barriers to redevelopment of the site.
25. Noting that previous attempts to remove heritage protections for this building using existing RMA processes have been unsuccessful, I consider directing this change via primary legislation is necessary.

*Strengthen Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and related processes to enable development capacity*

26. Unlocking development capacity in Auckland is key for New Zealand's productivity and economic growth. Central government is investing heavily into transport infrastructure in Auckland, and it is critical that we amplify the benefits of this investment by enabling more housing near stations that benefit from City Rail Link investment.
27. I am seeking delegation from Cabinet to take further policy decisions that will strengthen the requirements for the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and related processes to better enable housing capacity and intensification. This could include enabling more development close to key transit stations, removing some constraints on development such as unlisted qualifying matters, and increasing the role of central government in appointing hearings panel members for the plan change process.

*Inserting a new regulation making power to modify or remove provisions in RMA plans that negatively impact development capacity or the cost of housing*

28. To enable our cities to grow and deliver on the Government's objectives to drive economic growth, I am seeking agreement to add a new regulation making power. This will provide for the Governor General, on recommendation of the Minister for the Environment, to direct provisions in RMA plans be modified or removed if they have a

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disproportionate impact on development capacity or the cost of housing. Appropriate safeguards will apply.

- 29. I seek delegation to work with PCO on the details of how to achieve this but am mindful that any provisions will need to ensure due process is followed and the Government's commitments to Māori through Treaty Settlements and agreements are upheld.

**Treaty of Waitangi Impact Assessment**

- 30. The Government agreed that the resource management reform work programme would be guided by objectives that include upholding Treaty of Waitangi settlements and other related arrangements [ECO-24-MIN-0022 refers].

- 31. The Crown has obligations to engage with some Post Settlement Governance Entities on policy development under specific Treaty settlement agreements, and more broadly to engage with iwi Māori in good faith under the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Officials have not been able to undertake any comprehensive Treaty analysis in the time available. There may be significant Treaty impacts from these proposals.

s 9(2)(h) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

**IN CONFIDENCE****Impact Analysis**

37. Ministry for Regulation (MfR) have agreed that the following proposals are exempt from the requirement to provide a RIS on the grounds that the economic, social or environmental impacts are limited and easy to assess:
- 37.1 constraining council ability to review consent conditions for marine farmers during the transition period for the RMA reform, and
  - 37.2 addressing the unintended consequences relating to the management of water quantity and rural diffuse discharges in the Regional Plan: Water for Otago.
38. The remaining proposals in this paper have not been exempted from impact analysis requirements and do not meet Cabinet's requirements for regulatory proposals. MfR has agreed that Supplementary Analysis Reports (SAR) will be provided to the Cabinet Legislation Committee in:
- 38.1 July 2025, on the proposal to remove the heritage protection for Gordon Wilson Flats, the proposal to enable a new regulation making power to modify or remove provisions from RMA plans if they negatively impact development capacity or the cost of housing, and the proposal to strengthen the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument;
  - 38.2 September 2025, on the proposal to stop planning processes under the RMA that have not proceeded to a hearing prior to entering the transitional period ahead of the RMA replacement legislation.

**Climate Implications of Policy Assessment**

39. The Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) team has been consulted and confirms that the CIPA requirements do not apply to the Gordon Wilson Flats and Otago proposals as the threshold for significance is not met.

**Financial implications**

40. There are no direct financial implications to the Crown associated with the proposals in this paper.

**Legislative Implications**

41. I propose that amendments be made via an Amendment Paper to the Bill, introduced at Committee of the Whole.
42. I also seek delegation from Cabinet for the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and where relevant, the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries to make further policy and drafting decisions, that are consistent with the decisions made in this paper. I will return to the Cabinet Legislation Committee in July 2025 to confirm these decisions and seek approval to introduce the Amendment Paper.

**Cost of living implications**

43. These proposed changes are also expected to reduce the regulatory burden on the aquaculture and development sector more widely and therefore reduce the impacts on the cost of business. There are no other cost of living implications associated with the proposals in this paper.

**IN CONFIDENCE****Population Implications**

44. Improvements to the RMA should result in a more efficient and effective resource management system that will benefit all New Zealanders. Implementation of the Bill will need to be closely monitored to consider its potential impact on populations and communities, including on Māori.

**Human Rights**

45. There are no direct human rights implications resulting from this paper. The Bill was previously vetted by the Ministry of Justice and found to be consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993 [CAB-24-MIN-0492 refers].

**Use of External Resources**

46. No external resources have been used as part of this policy process.

**Consultation**

47. MfE has consulted with the following agencies and crown entities on this Cabinet paper: Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation (DOC), the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH), the Department of Internal Affairs, Land Information New Zealand, Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Tari Whakatau, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry for Regulation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Treasury and Te Waihangā/NZ Infrastructure Commission.
48. DOC noted concerns about the new regulation making power and stopping plan change proposals, and MCH noted concerns about the Gordon Wilson Flats proposal.

**Communications**

49. Subject to Cabinet approval of the proposals in this paper, I intend to introduce the Amendment Paper through a speech at the Committee of the Whole House.

**Proactive Release**

50. I plan to co-ordinate the proactive release of this paper and corresponding Cabinet minutes along with other material being released for the Bill, subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

**Recommendations**

The Minister Responsible for RMA Reform recommends that the Committee:

*Stopping plan and regional policy statement reviews and changes*

1. **agree** to stop reviews of and changes to RMA plans and regional policy statements before notification, after notification, and before a hearing has commenced, until 31 December 2027;
2. **agree** to provide for some plan review and change processes to continue through an automatic exemption for certain types of work and an application process for councils

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to seek exemptions from the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform. Any notified rules with immediate legal effect will no longer apply;

*Constrain council ability to review consent conditions for marine farmers during the transition period for the RMA reform*

3. **agree** to enable the bespoke review process for consents extended under the Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Act 2024, for 6 years from when the Extended Duration Act came into effect;
4. **agree** to constrain councils' ability to use section 128 of the RMA to review consents extended under the Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Act 2024, except where:
  - 4.1 a review is needed to implement relevant national environmental standards or national planning standards made by Government (s128(1)(ba));
  - 4.2 a review is required to allow discharges that would otherwise contravene the RMA in order to better manage the effects of the farm on the environment (s128(1)(a)(ii));
  - 4.3 inaccurate information was made available to the council when the consent was granted that materially influenced the decision to grant the consent (s128(1)(c)); and
  - 4.4 it is required by a Court order when a person is convicted of an offence (s128(2));

*Legislative solution for unintended consequences in the Regional Plan: Water for Otago identified after the pause on plan notification*

5. **agree** to extend the expiry date on specified water permits that have already been granted under Chapter 10A of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago by five years so that these consents will expire after new plan provisions are made operative;
6. **agree** the term of any new or replacement water permits applied for until a new planning framework is in place, are limited to a maximum six-year duration and, where applicable, may use the controlled activity pathway;
7. **agree** that until a new planning framework is in place, farmers will not require consents for diffuse discharges under certain provisions of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago that come into effect on 1 April 2026, where those rules are ambiguous, uncertain and unenforceable;
8. **agree** to override and/or amend the relevant policies, rules and related content in Chapter 7, Chapter 10A, Chapter 12 and schedules of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago to support recommendations 5-7 above;

*Removing heritage protections for Gordon Wilson Flats in Wellington City Council's RMA plans*

9. **agree** to remove heritage protections for the Gordon Wilson Flats from Wellington City Council's RMA plans;

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*Strengthen the requirements of the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and related processes to better enable development capacity*

10. **agree** to strengthen the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and related processes to better enable development capacity and intensification;

*Inserting a new regulation making power to modify or remove RMA plan provisions that negatively impact development capacity or the cost of housing power*

11. **agree** to insert a new regulation making power to allow for the Governor General, on the recommendation of Minister for the Environment, to direct that provisions be modified or removed from RMA plans if they negatively impact development capacity or the cost of housing;

12. **agree** that, prior to exercising the powers in recommendation 11 above, the Minister must:

- 12.1 carry out an investigation;
- 12.2 use decision making criteria to ensure the power is only used where necessary;
- 12.3 make recommendations to the relevant local authorities;
- 12.4 enable those local authorities to respond to recommendations; and
- 12.5 have particular regard to feedback from local authorities when making directions;

*Legislative implications*

13. **authorise** the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and where relevant, the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, to make further policy decisions (including necessary consequential amendments to the RMA) and issue drafting instructions to PCO to implement the recommendations in this paper.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister Responsible for RMA Reform



# Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill: Amendment Papers and Amendment Regulations

Portfolio                      RMA Reform

On 31 July 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1        **noted** that the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill (the Bill) holds a category 3 priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme (a priority to be passed by the end of 2025);
- 2        **noted** that Cabinet previously agreed amendments to the Bill and authorised the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform and, where relevant, the Ministers for Energy, and Oceans and Fisheries, to make further policy decisions required to draft these amendments [CAB-25-MIN-0187.01];
- 3        **noted** that the Amendment Paper, attached under LEG-25-SUB-0153, makes minor improvements to the Bill identified since the Environment Select Committee reported back;
- 4        **noted** the further policy decisions made by delegated Ministers to:
  - 4.1      create a process for delivering the plan stop proposal, including a suitable exemption pathway, to ensure important work that delivers on Government priorities can continue;
  - 4.2      ensure that the plan stop proposal upholds the Crown's Treaty settlement obligations by creating a Ministerial 'back-stop' power to ensure the responsible Minister can order a plan or policy statement to continue if it implements an obligation under a Treaty settlement or other legislated arrangement;
  - 4.3      enable greater housing capacity for Auckland by increasing heights in the walkable catchments of Maungawhau, Kingsland, Morningside, Baldwin Ave, and Mount Albert stations, enable variations to the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and amend the timeline for the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument;
  - 4.4      ensure the new Ministerial regulation-making power is targeted, workable and consistent with Treaty settlements;
  - 4.5      constrain councils' ability to review marine farm consent conditions to provide operational and investment certainty for marine farmers; and
  - 4.6      further amendments to ensure that Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) heritage protections cannot be placed over Gordon Wilson Flats in the future;

- 5 **authorised** the Parliamentary Counsel Office to make minor and technical changes to ensure workability of the proposals until the Amendment Paper is released ahead of committee of the whole House;
- 6 **approved** the Amendment Paper [PCO 26092-30/5.0] for release (subject to any minor and technical changes);
- 7 **agreed** that the Amendment Paper be released by 11 August 2025;

### **Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations 2025**

- 8 **noted** that in August 2023, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Change Committee agreed to increase the infringement fees and make other amendments to improve the function of the RMA infringement regime [ENV-23-MIN-0038];
- 9 **noted** that the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations 2025 will give effect to the decision referred to in paragraph 8 above;
- 10 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations 2025 [PCO 25827/3.0];
- 11 **noted** that the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations 2025 come into force on 4 September 2025.

Tom Kelly  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)  
Hon Erica Stanford  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Hon Chris Penk  
Stuart Smith, MP  
Todd Stephenson, MP  
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for LEG  
Office of the Leader of the House

## In Confidence

Office of the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

Cabinet Legislation Committee

## **Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill: Approval to release Amendment Papers and Amendments to the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Regulations 1999 (the Regulations)**

### Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks approval to release an Amendment Paper to the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill (the Bill). The Amendment Paper (Appendix 1) reflects the:
  - 1.1 policy proposals agreed by Cabinet;
  - 1.2 minor improvements identified since the Bill was reported back by the Environment Committee;
  - 1.3 further policy decisions taken under delegated authority by the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform and, where relevant, with the Ministers for Oceans and Fisheries, and Energy [CAB-25-MIN-0187.01].
- 2 This paper also seeks authorisation for submission to the Executive Council of the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations 2025 (the amendment Regulations).

### Executive Summary

- 3 As part of the Government's three phased approach to replacing the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Cabinet agreed to introduce an RMA amendment Bill that would make targeted changes to the RMA to unlock development in infrastructure, housing and primary industries, and drive a more efficient and effective resource management system. Cabinet agreed this Bill would be passed by mid-2025 [ECO-24-MIN-0113].
- 4 The Bill has had its first reading and has been reported back from the Select Committee with some improvements to ensure workability. I subsequently saw further opportunities to ensure the Bill better delivers on Government priorities and provides a smooth transition to the new resource management system.
- 5 I sought Cabinet's agreement to make seven further amendments to the Bill to better deliver on our Government's priorities. Cabinet authorised me, as the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and where relevant, the Ministers of Energy, and Oceans and Fisheries to take further policy decisions that aligned with the recommendations agreed by Cabinet [CAB-25-MIN-0871.01].

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- 6 I have made these further policy decisions with other delegated Ministers and these decisions are reflected in the Amendment Papers.
- 7 I seek further delegation to continue working with the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) to refine the Amendment Papers to settle technical and workability matters until the Bill reaches the Committee of the Whole House stage.
- 8 I also seek authorisation to refer the Regulations to the Executive Council for gazettal. In 2023, Cabinet agreed to amend the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Regulations 1999 (the Regulations) and PCO was instructed to draft the amendments [ENV-23-MIN-0038]. With the amendments drafted, all that remains is to submit the Regulations to the Executive Council for approval.
- 9 I consider the increases to infringement fees proposed in the Regulations align with and complement the increases in the maximum fines being made through the Bill. Making these changes now paves the way for quick and proportionate compliance responses to common breaches in the new resource management system.
- 10 I propose to bring the amendment Regulations into force shortly after the Bill comes into effect.

**Policy**

*This Bill delivers targeted changes to the RMA that have immediate impact and align the RMA with the direction of the future resource management system*

- 11 The Bill was introduced and referred to the Environment Select Committee in December 2024. The Bill was read a second time in July 2025, and I intend to pass the Bill in August 2025.
- 12 In June 2025, Cabinet agreed to make further amendments to the Bill to better deliver on Government priorities. The Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and where relevant, the Ministers for Oceans and Fisheries, and Energy, were delegated authority to take further policy decisions on the proposals agreed by Cabinet [CAB-25-MIN-0187.01].
- 13 Cabinet agreed to amend the Bill to:
- 13.1 stop unnecessary plan (and regional policy statement) work from progressing under the RMA, with some exemptions;
  - 13.2 constrain council ability to review consent conditions for marine farms under section 128 of the RMA and extend the bespoke review process under the Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Act 2024;
  - 13.3 address the unintended consequences of the restriction on notifying freshwater planning instruments in relation to Otago Regional Council's Regional Plan: Water for Otago;
  - 13.4 remove heritage protections for Gordon Wilson Flats in Wellington City Council's RMA plan;
  - 13.5 strengthen the requirements of the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and related processes to better enable development capacity;

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- 13.6 enable a new regulation making power that would enable provisions in RMA plans to be modified or removed if they negatively impact development capacity or the cost of housing, subject to appropriate safeguards;
  - 13.7 amend the definition of “specified energy activity” to include thermal electricity generation, to ensure these projects will benefit from the one-year consenting timeframe [CAB-25-MIN-0187.01].
- 14 I have also made further policy decisions on amendments that were delegated to me as the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and where relevant, the Ministers for Energy, and Oceans and Fisheries. These key decisions are outlined below.

*Further decisions to ensure that the plan stop proposal delivers on Government priorities, including upholding Treaty of Waitangi settlement obligations*

- 15 We have agreed that there is a need to stop unnecessary plan and policy statement changes under the RMA. This is to ensure councils are not wasting time and resource on work under the RMA that either won't be complete by the time we replace the RMA or will transition poorly into the new resource management system.
- 16 Stopping some of these plan changes, however, could have implications for the Crown's ability to uphold Treaty settlement obligations. To ensure that Treaty settlement obligations, where they are given effect to through an RMA plan or policy statement, are allowed to continue, I have agreed to an automatic exemption regime that will exempt these plans from the stop.
- 17 In addition to this, I have instructed officials to come up with a 'back stop' power so that if councils get this decision wrong, the responsible Minister can step in before councils withdraw those plan changes and tell them to continue. This will protect the Crown's relationship with iwi and enable the Crown to ensure its obligations under legislated arrangements are upheld.
- 18 To ensure this policy enables important planning work to continue, I have taken decisions to add further automatic exemptions and finalise the list of planning processes a council can apply to notify, or continue. I have also taken decisions on process steps to ensure the policy works as intended.

*Further decisions to enable greater development capacity in Auckland*

- 19 Auckland's growth is critical to driving New Zealand's productivity and economic growth. The Government has invested significantly in the City Rail Link, which is the biggest transport project in New Zealand's history. I want Auckland Council to be ambitious in the amount of growth it enables around the City Rail Link.
- 20 This is why I have taken further decisions to require that Auckland Council's replacement plan change for PC78 must enable heights of at least 15 storeys around Maungawhau, Kingsland, and Morningside stations, and at least 10 storeys for Mt Albert and Baldwin Avenue stations. These are stations where there is high demand and accessibility, and I want density enabled here to deliver returns on our investment.
- 21 The Bill will provide for a qualifying matter framework which will enable Auckland Council to modify these heights to the extent necessary to accommodate a qualifying matter if this level of development is inappropriate. I have taken further decisions to

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amend this framework to align with that provided for in the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021, to enable Auckland Council to apply a more streamlined evaluation process for existing qualifying matters.

- 22 I am requiring that Auckland Council's replacement plan change achieves the above outcomes. Additionally, I am enabling them to do a variation to the replacement plan change to future proof the process. This is intended to allow for further changes, for example, to realise the benefits of our investment in Auckland.
- 23 I am also making a minor change to the timeline requirements for the replacement plan change. The Bill as reported back from select committee provided that if Auckland Council withdrew PC78, it must publicly notify the replacement plan change by 10 October 2025.
- 24 I have heard from Auckland Council that it may struggle to meet this date largely due to administrative steps that must occur towards the end of the process prior to notification. Accordingly, I have decided that Auckland Council should be required to seek ministerial direction on the replacement plan change by 10 October 2025. The ministerial direction will be able to set a date for public notification that is both workable for the council, and sufficiently expeditious.

*Further decisions to ensure the new Ministerial regulation-making power is targeted, workable, and consistent with Treaty settlements*

- 25 To improve the workability of the new regulation-making power, I have taken decisions to provide a set of specified criteria and included procedural requirements that provide safeguards for use of the power. Plan or policy statement provisions that uphold the Crown's Treaty settlement obligations will be shielded from this power.

*Further decisions on constraining council ability to review marine farm consents*

- 26 The Minister for Oceans and Fisheries and I have taken further policy decisions on changes to reviewing conditions of marine farms. Cabinet has already agreed to limit councils' ability to review marine farm consent conditions under s128 of the RMA [CAB-25-MIN-0187.01].
- 27 In order to maintain the benefits of changes made under the Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Act 2024 (Extended Duration Act), and focus councils on using the bespoke consent review process provided by that Act, we have agreed to the following three changes to s128 of the RMA:
- 27.1 remove the ability for councils to review a discharge permit or a coastal permit to adopt the best practicable option to remove or reduce any adverse effect on the environment, for six years;
- 27.2 remove the ability for councils to review a marine farm consent on the grounds of inaccurate information, for six years;
- 27.3 enable a review of marine farm consents where agreed to as part of an adaptive management approach in the marine farm consent, for six years.

- 28 The six years will start from the time the Extended Duration Act came into effect (3 September 2024) and will cover the transition period to the new resource management system. The Bill will also extend the bespoke review process under the Extended Duration Act from two to six years to operate for the same six year period. I believe these changes support the Government's objectives of giving greater operational and investment certainty to marine farmers.

*Further decisions to clarify that RMA heritage protection cannot be placed on Gordon Wilson Flats in the future.*

- 29 Cabinet has taken decisions to remove heritage protections for the Gordon Wilson Flats from the Wellington City Council's RMA plans.
- 30 I now wish to clarify that this decision extends to future applications under the RMA, for example ensuring that no further heritage protections can be placed on the Gordon Wilson Flats either in an RMA plan, or through a heritage protection order.

*Seeking agreement to submit the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations 2025 to the Executive Council*

- 31 I also seek Cabinet agreement to refer the amendment Regulations to the Executive Council for gazettal. The RMA infringement regime has not been updated since 1999 and is now out of date, to the point where paying the fee for minor offending under the RMA can be cheaper than getting a resource consent or complying with the rules.
- 32 The RMA was amended in 2020 to increase the statutory maximum fee that can be prescribed through regulations for an RMA infringement – paving the way for this change, which has been overlooked in the years since. The previous Government subsequently agreed to amend the Regulations to increase the fees and make other minor amendments to improve their function. Cabinet authorised the issue of drafting instructions to PCO in August 2023 [ENV-23-MIN-0038]. However, this change was never brought into effect.
- 33 I consider the increases to infringement fees proposed in the amendment Regulations align with and complement the increases in the maximum fines being made through the Bill, and I propose to bring the amendment Regulations into force shortly after the Bill comes into effect.
- 34 The new resource management system will involve more standardisation and more permitted activities, reducing reliance on individual resource consents. An effective infringement regime is key to ensure that standards can be enforced effectively. Making these changes now paves the way for quick and proportionate compliance responses to common breaches in the new system.

*Proposed infringement fee changes*

- 35 The following table sets out the existing and proposed new fees for each infringement offence. The current fees have not been updated since they were set in 1999 and are now too low to deter non-compliance. Between 1999 and 2024, wages (from which individual infringement fees would be paid) have increased by 145%, so in real terms, most of the proposed increases in infringement fees for individuals are below the rate of inflation. Where greater increases are proposed, these reflect policy decisions made [ENV-23-MIN-0038] to improve proportionality and consistency across the fee regime.

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Description of infringement offence	Current fee (\$)	Proposed new fee (\$) and change (%)			
		Individual	Change	Company	Change
Contravention of section 9(1) and 9(2) (restrictions on use of land)	300	1500	400%	3000	900%
Contravention of section 9(3) and 9(4) (restrictions on use of land)	300	600	100%	1200	300%
Contravention of section 12 (restrictions on use of coastal marine area)	500	1000	100%	2000	300%
Contravention of section 13 (restriction on certain uses of beds of lakes and rivers)	500	1000	100%	2000	300%
Contravention of section 14 (restrictions relating to water)	500	1000	100%	2000	300%
Contravention of section 15(1)(a) and (b) (discharge of contaminants or water into water or onto or into land where contaminant is likely to enter water)	750	1500	100%	3000	300%
Contravention of section 15(1)(c) and (d) (discharge of contaminants into environment from industrial or trade premises)	1000	2000	100%	4000	300%
Contravention of section 15(2) or (2A) (discharge of contaminant into air or onto or into land)	300	600	100%	1200	300%
Contravention of an abatement notice (other than a notice under section 322(1)(c))	750	2000	166%	4000	433%
Contravention of a water shortage direction under section 329	500	2000	300%	4000	700%
Contravention of section 15A (dumping of waste or other matter from any ship, aircraft, or offshore installation)	500	1500	200%	3000	500%
Contravention of section 15B(1) and (2) (discharge in the coastal marine area of harmful substances, contaminants, or water from a ship or offshore installation)	500	1500	200%	3000	500%
Contravention of section 22 (failure to provide certain information to an enforcement officer)	300	1000	233%	2000	566%
Contravention of an excessive noise direction under section 327	500	1000	100%	2000	300%
Contravention of an abatement notice for unreasonable noise under section 322(1)(c)	750	1500	100%	3000	300%

**Impact Analysis**

36 A Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for the amendment Regulations was prepared in accordance with necessary requirements and was submitted at the time Cabinet approval was sought for the policy changes. The RIS is attached to this paper at Appendix 2.

37 A RIS was provided when the Bill was considered for introduction by Cabinet in December 2024. The Ministry for Regulation has agreed that Supplementary Analysis Reports (SAR) are required for many of the proposals to be introduced via the Amendment Papers. These reports are attached at Appendix 3. A summary of panel feedback on these proposals is in the table below:

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Panel assessment</b>
Removal of heritage protections for Gordon Wilson Flats	Does not meet
Strengthening the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument	Partially met
Regulation making power to modify or remove rules in plans or policy statements where they negatively impact development capacity, economic growth or employment	Partially met

38 The Ministry for Regulation has agreed that the proposal to stop RMA planning processes while we await transition to the new resource management system will require a SAR in September 2025 with other RMA Reform Phase 3 proposals.

39 The remaining proposals have been exempted from impact analysis requirements.

## **Compliance**

40 The Bill was vetted at introduction by the Ministry of Justice and found to be consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993 [CAB-24-MIN-0492 refers].

41 Compliance with the Treaty of Waitangi principles is addressed in the SARs in Appendix 3.

42 A disclosure statement has been prepared and attached to this paper as Appendix 4.

43 The Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee, state that significant policy changes should be referred to the Select Committee for public consultation.

44 Notwithstanding this advice, I would not be referring these amendments to Select Committee. These changes will aid in the transition to the new system, and are within the scope of the intent of the Bill to deliver targeted changes that deliver on our Government's priorities.

45 The Regulations are a strict liability infringement regime. These regimes have the potential to be considered inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. However, the primary legislation provides for statutory defences, and the Summary Proceedings Act 1957 (under which the infringement regime operates) provides defendants with the opportunity to request a court hearing to test the evidence. The amendments to the Regulations are consistent with the Human Rights Act 1993 and do not raise privacy issues under the Privacy Act 2020.

- 46 Many of the infringement fees I am proposing are higher than the typical maximum fee of \$1000 suggested by the Legislation Design Advisory Committee. The increase in fees is consistent with the increase to maximum fines I am proposing under the Bill. I am satisfied the proposed infringement fees are appropriate and proportionate for the types of minor offending likely to occur under the RMA.
- 47 There is nothing in the amendment Regulations that would require that the Regulations Review Committee draw these regulations to the attention of the House of Representatives.
- 48 The Parliamentary Counsel Office has certified the amendment Regulations as being in order for submission to Cabinet.

### **Consultation**

- 49 The Ministry for the Environment has consulted with the following agencies and crown entities on this Cabinet paper: the Treasury, Office of the Attorney-General, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation (DOC), the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH), the Department of Internal Affairs, Land Information New Zealand, Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Tari Whakatau, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry for Regulation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Te Waihanga/NZ Infrastructure Commission. Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has been informed.

### **Binding on the Crown**

- 50 This Act will bind the Crown.

### **Associated regulations**

- 51 Cabinet agreed to insert a new regulation-making power to allow the Minister for the Environment to direct that RMA plan provisions are modified or removed if they negatively impact economic growth, development capacity or employment [CAB-25-MIN-0187.01].
- 52 The new regulation-making power is intended to provide a targeted tool to address local plan provisions that are barriers to economic growth, development capacity, and employment.
- 53 Ministry for the Environment officials will manage the administration of the new regulation-making power. No additional agencies or groups need to be established to oversee this Ministerial function. The Minister can choose to exercise this power when required, at their discretion.

### **Commencement of legislation**

- 54 I propose the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations come into force 28 days after notification in the New Zealand Gazette on the 4 September 2025.
- 55 I propose the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill come into force on the day after the date of Royal assent, including the amendments that will be delivered via the Amendment Papers.

56 I note that various provisions in the Bill have a delayed commencement.

### Parliamentary Stages

57 The Amendment Papers should be released by 11 August 2025, and the Bill should be enacted by the end of August 2025.

### Proactive Release

58 I plan to co-ordinate the proactive release of this paper and corresponding Cabinet minutes along with other material being released for the Bill and the Regulations, subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

### Recommendations

The Minister Responsible for RMA Reform recommends that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **note** that the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill holds a category 3 priority on the 2024 Legislation Programme to be enacted by the end of 2025;
- 2 **note** Cabinet previously agreed amendments to the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill and authorised the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform and, where relevant, the Ministers for Energy, and Oceans and Fisheries, to make further policy decisions required to draft these amendments [CAB-25-MIN-0187.01]
- 3 **note** that the Amendment Paper makes minor improvements to the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill identified since the Environment Select Committee reported back.
- 4 **confirm** the further policy decisions made by delegated Ministers to:
  - 4.1 create a process for delivering the plan stop proposal, including a suitable exemption pathway, to ensure important work that delivers on Government priorities can continue;
  - 4.2 ensure that the plan stop proposal upholds the Crown's Treaty settlement obligations by creating a Ministerial 'back-stop' power to ensure the responsible Minister can order a plan or policy statement to continue if it implements an obligation under a Treaty settlement or other legislated arrangement;
  - 4.3 enable greater housing capacity for Auckland by increasing heights in the walkable catchments of Maungawhau, Kingsland, Morningside, Baldwin Ave, and Mount Albert stations, enable variations to the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and amend the timeline for the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument;
  - 4.4 ensure the new Ministerial regulation-making power is targeted, workable and consistent with Treaty settlements;
  - 4.5 constrain councils' ability to review marine farm consent conditions to provide operational and investment certainty for marine farmers; and

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- 4.6 further amendments to ensure that Resource Management Act heritage protections cannot be placed over Gordon Wilson Flats in the future;
- 5 **authorise** Parliamentary Counsel Office to make minor and technical changes to ensure workability of the proposals until the Amendment Paper is released ahead of Committee of the Whole House;
- 6 **approve** the attached Amendment Paper (subject to any minor and technical changes) for release;
- 7 **agree** the Amendment Paper be released by 11 August.

*Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Regulations 1999*

- 8 **note** that on 24 August 2023 the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Change Committee agreed to increase the infringement fees and make other amendments to improve the function of the RMA infringement regime [ENV-23-MIN-0038];
- 9 **note** that the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations 2025 will give effect to the decision referred to in paragraph 10 above;
- 10 **authorise** the submission to the Executive Council of the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations 2025;
- 11 **note** that the Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Amendment Regulations 2025 come into force on 4 September 2025.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister Responsible for RMA Reform



# Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill: Approval for Amendment Paper

Portfolio                      RMA Reform

On 4 June 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

#### Stopping plan and regional policy statement reviews and changes

- 1        **agreed** to stop reviews of and changes to Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) plans and regional policy statements before notification, after notification, and before a hearing has commenced, until 31 December 2027;
- 2        **agreed** to provide for some plan review and change processes to continue through an automatic exemption for certain types of work and an application process for councils to seek exemptions from the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and that any notified rules with immediate legal effect will no longer apply;

#### Constraining council ability to review consent conditions for marine farmers during the transition period for the RMA reform

- 3        **agreed** to enable the bespoke review process for consents extended under the Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Act 2024, for six years from when that Act came into effect;
- 4        **agreed** to constrain councils' ability to use section 128 of the RMA to review consents extended under the Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Act 2024, except where:
  - 4.1       a review is needed to implement relevant national environmental standards or national planning standards made by government (s128(1)(ba));
  - 4.2       a review is required to allow discharges that would otherwise contravene the RMA in order to better manage the effects of the farm on the environment (s128(1)(a)(ii));
  - 4.3       inaccurate information was made available to the council when the consent was granted that materially influenced the decision to grant the consent (s128 (1)(c)); and
  - 4.4       it is required by a Court order when a person is convicted of an offence (s128 (2));

**Legislative solution for unintended consequences in the Regional Plan: Water for Otago identified after the pause on plan notification**

- 5 **agreed** to extend the expiry date on specified water permits that have already been granted under Chapter 10A of the *Regional Plan: Water for Otago* by five years so that these consents will expire after new plan provisions are made operative;
- 6 **agreed** the term of any new or replacement water permits applied for until a new planning framework is in place, are limited to a maximum six-year duration and, where applicable, may use the controlled activity pathway;
- 7 **agreed** that until a new planning framework is in place, farmers will not require consents for diffuse discharges under certain provisions of the *Regional Plan: Water for Otago* that come into effect on 1 April 2026, where those rules are ambiguous, uncertain and unenforceable;
- 8 **agreed** to override and/or amend the relevant policies, rules and related content in Chapter 7, Chapter 10A, Chapter 12 and the schedules of the *Regional Plan: Water for Otago* to support paragraphs 5 to 7 above;

**Removing heritage protections for Gordon Wilson Flats in Wellington City Council's RMA plans**

- 9 **agreed** to remove heritage protections for the Gordon Wilson Flats from Wellington City Council's RMA plans;

**Strengthening the requirements of the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and related processes to better enable development capacity**

- 10 **agreed** to strengthen the Auckland Housing Planning Instrument and related processes to better enable development capacity and intensification;

**Provision for thermal energy generation as part of one year consenting**

- 11 **agreed** to amend the definition of "specified energy activity" to include thermal energy generation, to ensure these projects will benefit from the one-year consenting timeframe;

**Inserting a new regulation-making power to modify or remove RMA plan provisions that negatively impact development capacity or the cost of housing power**

- 12 **agreed** to insert a new regulation-making power to allow for the Governor-General, on the recommendation of Minister for the Environment, to direct that provisions be modified or removed from RMA plans if they negatively impact development capacity or the cost of housing;
- 13 **agreed** that, prior to exercising the powers in paragraph 12 above, the Minister for the Environment must:
  - 13.1 carry out an investigation;
  - 13.2 use decision-making criteria to ensure the power is only used where necessary;
  - 13.3 make recommendations to the relevant local authorities;
  - 13.4 enable those local authorities to respond to recommendations; and
  - 13.5 have particular regard to feedback from local authorities when making directions;

**Legislative implications**

- 14 **authorised** the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and where relevant, the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries and Minister for Energy, to make further policy decisions (including necessary consequential amendments to the RMA) and issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to implement the decisions above.

Tom Kelly  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Erica Stanford  
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 James Meager  
Hon Scott Simpson  
Simon Court, MP

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for ECO  
Prime Minister's Office  
Office of the Leader of the House  
Office of the Attorney-General  
Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety  
Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and  
Technology  
Ministry for the Environment