



Sand and Shingle Royalties

Changes introduced by the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025

These changes, which passed into law on 20 August 2025, belong to a wider programme of resource management reform. Visit the Ministry for the Environment's [webpage about the new Amendment Act](#) for more information.

Context

The Resource Management (Transitional, Fees, Rents, and Royalties) Regulations 1991 (the Transitional Regulations) are regulations that, among other things, allow regional councils to collect royalties for the taking of sand, shingle and other natural material.

Regulation 9 of the Transitional Regulations requires the taking of royalties when sand, shingle or other natural material is removed from “land of the Crown in the coastal marine area”.

However, since the passing of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 (the Takutai Moana Act), it has been deemed that the “common marine and coastal area” may not be owned by anyone, including the Crown.

When it was passed, the Takutai Moana Act reflected this change through consequential amendments to language in the Resource Management Act 1991 and some resource management regulations, replacing “land of the Crown in the coastal marine area” with “common marine and coastal area”. However, these changes were not made to the Transitional Regulations.

Key changes

- Section 68 of the Amendment Act adds a new section 359A to the RMA.
- Section 75 of the Amendment Act introduces amendments to the Transitional Regulations.
- Section 76 of the Amendment Act amends regulation 2 of the Transitional Regulations.
- Sections 77 and 78 of the Amendment Act amend regulations 7A and 7B of the Transitional Regulations.
- Sections 79 and 80 of the Amendment Act amend regulations 8 and 9 of the Transitional Regulations.
- Section 81 of the Amendment Act amends Schedule 2 of the Transitional Regulations.

The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 (the Amendment Act) aligns terminology in the Transitional Regulations with the Takutai Moana Act by changing all references to “land of the Crown in the coastal marine area” in the Transitional Regulations to “common marine and coastal area”.

The Amendment Act inserts a clause confirming that any sand and shingle royalties collected under regulation 9 were, and always have been, validly imposed.

