



# Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Institutional Arrangements for the Spatial Planning Act

Portfolio Environment

On 15 December 2022, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Resource Management Act 1991 is to be repealed and replaced this parliamentary term by the Spatial Planning Act (SPA) and Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA);
- 2 **noted** that the SPA will work in tandem with the NBA, and later with the Climate Adaptation Act, to set up a framework for using, developing and protecting the environment; and enabling development within environmental limits;
- 3 **noted** that the Spatial Planning Bill and Natural and Built Environment Bill have been introduced to Parliament and referred to the Environment Committee, and that the Climate Adaptation Bill will be introduced in 2023;
- 4 **noted** that the SPA establishes spatial planning throughout New Zealand, and fills key gaps in the current resource management system, ensuring better outcomes including well-functioning urban environments, adequate housing and infrastructure, and healthy natural environments;
- 5 **noted** that the SPA requires the creation of 15 regional spatial strategies (RSS) across the country, each of which will be developed by a regional planning committee (RPC);
- 6 **noted** that RSS will focus on a vision for each region, and the big issues and opportunities the region will face over the next 30 plus years;
- 7 **noted** that to ensure the SPA effectively addresses current system gaps, central government will have a significant new role in contributing to the RPC and the development of their RSS and implementation plans;
- 8 **noted** that this role will enable collaboration across a range of agencies, including through the central government members on RPC (one on each);

### Setting-up of Spatial Planning Board

- 9 **agreed** that an interdepartmental executive board (IEB) be established under the Public Service Act 2020 to govern the implementation of the SPA; and have ongoing stewardship, oversight, and monitoring responsibility for the SPA;

- 10 **agreed** that this IEB be called the Spatial Planning Board, which would succeed the existing Strategic Planning Reform Board (currently referred as the Spatial Planning Reform Board), with modified functions;
- 11 **agreed** that the Spatial Planning Board will have the following functions:
- 11.1 contributing to regional planning committees by:
    - 11.1.1 coordinating central government's strategic priorities;
    - 11.1.2 supporting Ministerial appointees throughout the regional spatial strategy development process;
    - 11.1.3 supporting the development of implementation plans;
    - 11.1.4 supporting the Treasury with its budget coordination and prioritisation function to ensure central government investment flowing from regional spatial strategies is sequenced and prioritised appropriately;
    - 11.1.5 coordinating central government engagement in each regional spatial strategy process;
  - 11.2 overseeing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of the SPA;
  - 11.3 supporting the transition and ongoing implementation of the SPA;
- 12 **agreed** that the remit of the Spatial Planning Board will include the Ministry for the Environment; Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development; Ministry of Transport; Department of Internal Affairs; Department of Conservation; the Treasury; Te Arawhiti; Te Puni Kōkiri; Ministry for Primary Industries; Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; Ministry for Culture and Heritage; Ministry of Health; and Ministry of Education – collectively referred to as 'remit agencies';
- 13 **noted** that in April 2022, Ministerial Oversight Group (MOG) Ministers agreed in principle that the SPA be formally administered by the IEB's servicing department;
- 14 **agreed** that the servicing department for the SPA be the Ministry for the Environment, and that the Ministry will administer the Spatial Planning Act;
- 15 **agreed** that the members of the Spatial Planning Board will be jointly responsible to the Minister for the Environment;
- 16 **noted** that the Public Service Commissioner will designate the membership and chair of the Spatial Planning Board from the board's remit agencies, in consultation with the Minister for the Public Service and appropriate Minister and other relevant sources at the Commissioner's discretion; and can also, after such consultation, appoint independent advisors to the Board (without decision-making authority on the Board);
- 17 **invited** the Minister for the Public Service to instruct the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft the Orders in Council necessary to implement paragraphs 12, 14 and 15;
- 18 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment, in consultation with the Ministers responsible for the Spatial Planning Board's remit agencies, will make further decisions on a framework for coordinating central government priorities, and the scope, mandate and appointment process for central government RPC members, and other design decisions for the Board;

**Financial implications**

- 19 **noted** that the Spatial Planning Board will be funded via a fiscally neutral transfer within Vote Environment for the 2023/24 year;
- 20 **noted** that the Spatial Planning Board will be funded in the 2024/25, 2025/26 and outyears from the tagged contingency created at Budget 22, upon presentation of a detailed proposal by officials and agreement by the Minister of Finance and Minister for the Environment, in consultation with the Minister for the Public Service, on the workforce impact;

21 s 9(2)(f)(iv) & s 9(2)(g)(i)



Rebecca Davies  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon David Parker (Chair)  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Michael Wood  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

**Officials present from:**  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for ENV

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