



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development: Release of Discussion Document

**Portfolios**                      **Urban Development / Environment**

On 31 July 2019, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

- 1     **noted** that the proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS), which is national direction under the Resource Management Act 1991:
  - 1.1     is designed to improve urban planning for successful cities and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Urban Growth Agenda;
  - 1.2     would replace the existing National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity;
- 2     **noted** that the NPS would require local authorities to:
  - 2.1     carry out long-term planning for how they will accommodate growth and ensure a quality urban environment for all people, whānau, communities and future generations;
  - 2.2     ensure that plans make room for growth both ‘up’ and ‘out’, and that rules are not unnecessarily constraining growth;
  - 2.3     ensure urban development occurs in a way that takes into account issues of concern to iwi and hapū;
  - 2.4     develop, monitor and maintain an evidence base about demand, supply and prices for housing and land, to inform planning decisions;
  - 2.5     align and coordinate planning across urban areas;
- 3     **noted** that the NPS is intended to complement the proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land to protect productive land from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, while also providing for urban growth (discussed in the separate paper under DEV-19-SUB-0202);
- 4     **agreed** to the release of the discussion document *Planning for Successful Cities: A Discussion Document on a Proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development* (the discussion document), attached to the submission under DEV-19-SUB-0204, for public consultation in August-September 2019;

- 5 **authorised** the Minister for Urban Development and the Minister for the Environment to make minor and editorial amendments to the discussion document before its release;
- 6 **noted** that four other areas of national direction are anticipated to be consulted on between August and November 2019 (highly productive land, freshwater management, indigenous biodiversity and air quality);
- 7 **noted** that the cumulative impact of national direction consultation between August and September 2019 will have a significant impact on councils, and that the Ministry for the Environment will coordinate these processes;
- 8 **invited** the Minister for the Environment, in consultation with other portfolio Ministers as appropriate, to report back to Cabinet as soon as practicable with advice on the sequencing, implementation and communications plans relating to the areas of national direction referred to in paragraph 6 above;
- 9 **agreed** that the Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development release an addendum to the discussion document in mid-August 2019, proposing an approach to the methodology for Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessments;
- 10 **noted** that funding was provided over four years as part of the 2019 Budget initiative to finalise the delivery of the proposed NPS, prepare guidance material, conduct a first year roadshow, and provide other implementation support;
- 11 **invited** the Minister for Urban Development and the Minister for the Environment to report back to DEV following the consultation process, seeking agreement to a final NPS to be brought into force in early to mid-2020.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Jenny Salesa  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon James Shaw  
Hon Eugenie Sage

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister for Urban Development  
Minister for the Environment