

National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land Amendment 2025



Authority

This amendment to a National Policy Statement is made by the Minister for the Environment under section 53(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

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1. Title

This is the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land Amendment 2025.

2. Commencement

This amendment to the National Policy Statement comes into force on 15 January 2026.

3. Principal instrument

This instrument amends the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022.

4. Clause 1.3 amended (Interpretation)

Insert new definitions:

“ancillary activity has the meaning in Standard 14 (Definitions Standard) of the National Planning Standards

quarrying activities has the meaning in Standard 14 (Definitions Standard) of the National Planning Standards”

Amend the definition of “LUC 1, 2, or 3 land” to:

- (a) Add a comma after “New Zealand Land Resource Inventory” and
- (b) include the words “in place at the commencement date” after the words “any more detailed mapping”.

5. Clause 3.5 amended

Amend clause 3.5(1) to delete the words “As soon as practicable, and no later than 3 years after the commencement date”.

Amend clause 3.5(2) to delete the words “over the 3 years following the commencement date”.

Amend clause 3.5(7) to delete the words “at the commencement date” in the chapeau.

Amend clause 3.5(7)(a)(i) to insert the words “at the commencement date” after the words “or rural production”.

Amend clause 3.5(7)(b)(i) to insert the words “at the commencement date” after the words “future urban development”.

Amend clause 3.5(7)(b)(ii) to insert the words “at the commencement date; or” after the words “or rural lifestyle”.

Amend clause 3.5(7)(b)(ii) to delete full stop and add “; or”.

Add new clause 3.5(7)(b)(iii):

“subject to a resource consent application for subdivision, use or development on LUC 3 land for any activity other than rural lifestyle, where that consent has been lodged at or after the commencement date”.

6. Clause 3.6 amended

Add new clause 3.6(6):

“Clauses 3.6(1), 3.6(2), 3.6(3) and 3.6(4) do not apply to urban rezoning of LUC 3 land”.

7. Clause 3.9 amended

Amend clause 3.9(2)(j)(iii) to:

- (a) delete the words “mineral extraction” and replace with the words “the extraction of minerals and ancillary activities”;
- (b) amend “provides” to “provide”;
- (c) add the words “or regional” after “national”;
- (c) delete the word “public”; and
- (d) delete the words “that could not otherwise be achieved using resources within New Zealand”.

Amend clause 3.9(2)(j)(iv) to:

- (a) delete the words “aggregate extraction” and replace with the words “quarrying activities”;
- (b) amend “provides” to “provide”;
- (e) delete the word “public”; and
- (f) delete the words “that could not otherwise be achieved using resources within New Zealand”.

8. Clause 4.1 amended

Insert new clause 4.1(2):

“(2) Despite (1) above, regional councils are not required to undertake mapping of highly productive land in regional policy statements as required under clause 3.5 prior to 31 December 2027.”

Amend the numbering of clause 4.1(2) to 4.1(3).

Made at Wellington on 15 December 2025.

Hon Chris Bishop
For the Minister for the Environment

This is secondary legislation issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019 .	
Title	National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land Amendment 2025
Principal or amendment	Amendment
Consolidated version	No
Empowering Act and provisions	Resource Management Act 1991, section 53(1)
Replacement empowering Act and provisions	N/A
Maker name	Minister for the Environment
Administering agency	Ministry for the Environment
Date made	15 December 2025
Publication date	18 December 2025
Notification date	18 December 2025
Commencement date	15 January 2026
End date (when applicable)	N/A
Consolidation as at date	N/A
Related instruments	<p>National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 [as made]</p> <p>National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 [consolidated with 2024 amendment]</p> <p>National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land Amended 2025 [consolidated with 2025 amendments]</p>