

Consideration of National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards

There are 8 National Policy Statements as follows:

1. National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
2. National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat
3. National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land
4. National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation
5. National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission
6. National Policy Statement on Urban Development
7. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
8. New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

We note the following:

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management: This NPS sets out objectives and policies for managing freshwater resources sustainably. It has minimal bearing on the project and development except for those provisions associated with wetlands.

National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat: The NPS provides nationally consistent policies and requirements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industries using process heat by:

- prohibiting discharges of greenhouse gases from new low to medium temperature coal boilers immediately and from existing coal boilers after 2037 (after this date no further consents can be issued)
- requiring resource consent to be held for new and existing fossil fuel boilers that emit 500 tonnes and above of CO₂-e per year, per site
- requiring resource consent applicants to prepare and implement greenhouse gas emission plans and set out actions to reduce emissions.

The NPS is not relevant to the project.

National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land: This NPS aims to protect highly productive land from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. Some of the landholdings are located within areas considered as 'highly productive'. The NPS is relevant in this respect.

National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation: This NPS promotes the development of renewable electricity generation projects. It has no relevance to the project.

National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission: The NPS provides a high-level framework that gives guidance across New Zealand for the management and future planning of the national grid.

It does the following:

- acknowledges the national significance of the national grid, which has to be considered in local decision making on resource management
- gives guidance to local decision makers in the management of the impacts of the transmission network on its environment
- recognises the national benefits we all get from electricity transmission, such as better security of supply of electricity
- guides the management of the adverse effects of activities from third parties on the grid which helps reduce constraints on the operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the grid
- ensures long-term strategic planning for elements of the national grid.

It has no relevance to the project.

National Policy Statement on Urban Development: This NPS provides direction for urban growth and development to support well-functioning urban environments. The Far North District is not overly implicated by this as its not considered an urban tier local authority.

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity: This NPS aims to halt the decline of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity. It primarily focuses on terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity and directs local and regional authorities to promote rules and requirements in their plans. It has limited relevance to the project.

The **New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2016** is of relevance. The key features of the NZCPS in relation to the project are as follows:

- **Sustainable Management:** The NZCPS emphasizes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment.
- **Protection of Coastal Environment:** The NZCPS aims to protect the natural character and amenity values of the coastal environment.
- **Māori Cultural Values:** The NZCPS recognizes the importance of protecting and enhancing the cultural values and interests of Māori in the coastal environment.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** The NZCPS acknowledges the need to address the impacts of climate change on the coastal environment, including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and ocean acidification.

These factors are not inconsistent or incongruent with typical residential and commercial development or with water storage proposals.

There are 10 National Environmental Standards as follows:

National Environmental Standard for Air Quality: This standard sets maximum allowable concentrations for various air pollutants to protect human health and the environment. This has no relevance to the project.

National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health: This standard provides guidelines for assessing and managing contaminants in soil to protect human health from exposure to contaminated land. This has no known relevance to the project at this stage.

National Environmental Standard for Commercial Forestry: This standard regulates the management of commercial forestry activities to protect soil, water, and biodiversity values. This has no relevance to the project.

National Environmental Standard for Electricity Transmission Activities: This standard sets rules and requirements for electricity transmission activities to protect the environment and manage adverse effects. This has no relevance to the project.

National Environmental Standard for Freshwater: The NES set requirements for carrying out certain activities that pose risks to freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. Anyone carrying out these activities will need to comply with the standards.

The standards are designed to:

- protect natural inland wetlands
- protect urban and rural streams from in-filling
- ensure connectivity of fish habitat (fish passage)
- set minimum requirements for feedlots and other stockholding areas
- improve poor practice intensive winter grazing of forage crops
- restrict further agricultural intensification until the end of 2024
- limit the discharge of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser to land, and require reporting of fertiliser use.

In many cases, people will need to apply for a resource consent from their regional council to continue carrying out regulated activities. This has relevance to Stages 3 and 4 as discussed throughout the application.

National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gases from Industrial Process Heat: The standards provide nationally consistent policies and requirements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industries using process heat by:

- prohibiting discharges of greenhouse gases from new low to medium temperature coal boilers immediately and from existing coal boilers after 2037 (after this date no further consents can be issued)
- requiring resource consent to be held for new and existing fossil fuel boilers that emit 500 tonnes and above of CO₂-e per year, per site
- requiring resource consent applicants to prepare and implement greenhouse gas emission plans and set out actions to reduce emissions.

They work alongside the [National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gases from Industrial Process Heat](#) (NPS). This has no relevance to the project.

National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture: The National Environmental Standards for Marine Aquaculture (NES-MA) set national rules that replace regional council

rules for existing marine farms except where the NES-MA allow regional council rules to remain in force.

The NES-MA will ensure existing marine farms meet best environmental practice while providing a more certain and efficient process for:

- replacement consents for existing marine farms
- realignment of farms
- applications to change farmed species.

This has no relevance to the project.

National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water: This standard aims to protect the sources of human drinking water from contaminants and pollution. This has no relevance to the project.

National Environmental Standards for Storing Tyres Outdoors: The purpose of the NES is:

- To ensure the risks of harm to the environment, human health and local communities from outdoor tyre storage are appropriately managed.
- To support more consistent management practices across New Zealand, filling gaps in regulatory settings that create incentives to move tyres between regions.

This has no relevance to the project.