

In Force Resource Management and Local Government Reform: *What's in force and what's to come*

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021	<p>The Act is designed to improve housing supply in New Zealand's five largest urban areas by speeding up implementation of the NPS-UD, including enabling more medium density homes by removing restrictive planning rules.</p> <p>Firstly, it requires Tier 1 councils (including Auckland, Hamilton urban area, Tauranga urban area, Wellington urban area, and Christchurch urban area) to change their planning rules so most residential areas are zoned for medium density housing, subject to any qualifying matters including section 6 considerations.</p> <p>Secondly, it creates a new streamlined process so these councils can implement the NPS-UD's intensification policies faster.</p>	<p>Yes (from 21 December 2021)</p>	<p>Tier 1 councils (and certain Tier 2 councils) must notify an Intensification Planning Instrument (IPI), which will incorporate the new Medium Density Residential Standards (MDRS) into the relevant district plan, and density standards which are contrary to the MDRS will have to be removed from the district plan.</p> <p>MDRS will have legal effect when plans are notified by August 2022, enabling new supply, unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a qualifying matter applies; • the council has proposed more permissive height standards; or • greenfield land is being rezoned to residential land. <p>In these cases, planning provisions will have legal effect once the plan change decisions have been completed and after the submissions and hearings period.</p>	<p>By 20 August 2022</p>
	<p>Tier 1 councils (and certain Tier 2 councils) must use a new planning process to accelerate housing supply called the Intensification Streamlined Planning Process (ISPP) which will enable councils to implement the intensification required by the NPS-UD from August 2023, at least a year earlier than under the standard RMA timeframe.</p>		<p>In time to notify an IPI by 20 August 2022</p>	
Water Services Act 2021	<p>This Act is part of the Three Waters Reform Programme. It establishes drinking water standards and regulates all persons and organisations that supply drinking water. Any person who supplies water to another household or dwelling, which may be used for drinking water, is likely to be caught by the Act. The Act will fully come into force over the next seven years.</p>	<p>Yes (from 15 November 2021) [Water Services Act Commencement Order 2021]</p>	<p>Public consultation on proposed technical drinking water standards. These proposals relate to the regulatory role of Taumata Arowai under the Water Services Act 2021.</p>	<p>Closes 28 March 2022</p>
			<p>Section 58 (Exemption: residual disinfection).</p>	<p>Came into force on 1 March 2022 [Water Services Act Commencement Order 2021]</p>

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
Water Services Act 2021 continued			Order in Council excluded the following sections from the 15 November 2021 commencement date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections 138 and 139 (Provisions relating to wastewater networks) • Sections 141(c) and (d) (Enabling comparisons to be made between the performance of different drink water/wastewater networks and drinking water/wastewater network operators) • Section 144 (Network registers) • Section 146 (Record-keeping requirements for monitoring and reporting purposes for wastewater) • Section 147 (Annual reporting on networks) • Section 148 (Further provisions relating to reporting). 	Comes into force on the earlier of a date appointed by Order in Council and date that is 2 years after Royal assent (4 October 2023)
			Section 8 (First drinking water compliance, monitoring and enforcement strategy).	12 months following commencement
			Section 7 (All local authorities and council-controlled organisations required to become authorised or have their drinking water services delivered by an authorised supplier).	5 years following commencement
			Section 2 (Taumata Arowai must review the <i>Drinking-water Standards of New Zealand 2005 (Revised 2018)</i>).	5 years following commencement
Financial Sector (Climate-related Disclosures and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021	The Act will make climate-related disclosures mandatory for large publicly listed companies, insurers, banks, non-bank deposit takers and investment managers from financial years commencing in 2023, subject to the publication of climate standards from the External Reporting Board (XRB).	Yes (from 28 October 2021)	The final XRB consultation document will be released.	July 2022
			The final standards are expected to be issued.	December 2022
			Part 2 (Amendments to Financial Reporting Act 2013), other than sections 32(1) and 33 and section 43(1).	Came into force on 28 October 2021 (day after Royal assent)
			Any part of the Act, other than Part 1A and subpart 1 of Part 3.	By 27 October 2022
			Part 1A (Amendments to Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013) and subpart 1 of Part 3 (Amendment to Public Audit Act 2001).	By 27 October 2024

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Taumata Arowai – the Water Services Regulator Act 2020	The Act creates a new regulatory body, Taumata Arowai, to oversee, administer, and enforce the drinking water regulatory system. The Regulator's detailed functions and powers are in the Water Services Act 2021.	Yes (from 1 March 2021)	N/A	N/A
National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM)	NPS-FM provides updated national policy direction to regional councils on freshwater management (including bottom lines for a number of freshwater attributes) and requires regional councils to have regard to the reasonably foreseeable impacts of climate change, with a strong focus on Te Mana o te Wai and tangata whenua involvement.	Yes (from 3 September 2020)	Every local authority must give effect to the NPS-FM 2020.	As soon as reasonably practicable
			Part 3 (Implementation) sets out a non-exhaustive list of things that local authorities must do to give effect to the objectives and policies in the NPS-FM.	
			Part 3.23: Every regional council must identify and map every natural inland wetland in its region that meets certain requirements.	Mapping must be completed within 10 years of the commencement date
Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NESF)	The NESF set activity classification and standards for certain activities, which override any regional plan rules that set a more lenient activity classification. Anyone seeking to undertake those activities will need to seek consent under the NESF, and under any relevant rules in the applicable regional and district plan.	Yes (from 3 September 2020)	Regulations 12 to 14 (stockholding areas other than feed lots) and subpart 4 of Part 2 (application of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer to pastoral land).	Came into force on 1 July 2021
			Regulations 28 to 31 (temporary standards for intensification of intensive winter grazing).	Came into force on 1 May 2021 ¹
			Regulations 26 and 27 (general standards for intensive winter grazing).	Currently set to come into force on 1 May 2022, however, likely to come into force on 1 November 2022 ²
Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020	The Regulations set requirements for excluding stock from wetlands, lakes, and rivers more than one metre wide. A setback of three metres, on average, across a farm is required. Dates for compliance vary according to stock type and terrain.	Yes (from 3 September 2020)	Section 3 sets out the specific dates for compliance.	N/A

¹ Regulations 28 to 31 are temporary regulations that will apply until regulations 26 and 27 come into force.

² Regulations 26 and 27 are currently set to come into force on 1 May 2022, however, the Government has proposed a deferral to the commencement of the regulations to 1 November 2022. Submissions for the proposed changes closed on 7 October 2021. There has been no further update.

In Force

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020 continued			Regulations 9 and 10 (Dairy cattle and pigs on any terrain).	Commencement date in relation to dairy cattle or pigs in a new pastoral system; or 1 July 2023
			Regulation 11 (dairy support cattle on any terrain).	Commencement date in relation to dairy support cattle in a new pastoral system; or 1 July 2025
			Regulations 12 and 13 (beef cattle and deer that intensively graze on any terrain).	Commencement date in relation to beef cattle or deer in a new pastoral system; or 1 July 2023
			Regulations 14 and 15 (which relate to beef cattle and deer on low slope land).	Commencement date in relation to beef cattle or deer in a new pastoral system; or 1 July 2025
			Regulation 16 (which requires the exclusion of stock from natural wetlands identified in a regional or a district plan that is operative on the commencement date).	Commencement date in relation to stock in a new pastoral system; or 1 July 2023
			Regulation 17 (which requires the exclusion of stock from natural wetlands that support a population of threatened species).	Commencement date in relation to stock in a new pastoral system; or 1 July 2025

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Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020 continued			Regulation 18 (which requires the exclusion of stock from natural wetlands on low slope land).	Commencement date in relation to stock in a new pastoral system; or 1 July 2025
National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD) <i>The NPS-UD is currently being updated to align with the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021.</i>	<p>The NPS-UD requires local authorities for major urban centres to implement specified measures to facilitate urban growth. Councils will be required to identify where and how they will provide for future development through Future Development Strategies (FDS) and Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment (HBA).</p> <p>This process will be subject to an assessment as to whether any 'qualifying matters' limit the height increases by reference to the matters of national importance in section 6 of the RMA, and other appropriate matter having regard to site-specific considerations.</p> <p>Tier 1: Auckland, Christchurch (including Selwyn and Waimakariri District), Wellington (including Porirua, Hutt City, Upper Hutt City, Kapiti Coast), Tauranga (including Western Bay of Plenty) and Hamilton (including Waikato District, Waipa District) and respective regional councils.</p> <p>Tier 2: Napier-Hastings, Nelson and Tasman, Whangarei, Palmerston North, New Plymouth, Rotorua, Dunedin, Queenstown-Lakes, and respective regional councils.</p> <p>Tier 3: Not Tier 1 or 2.</p>	Yes (from 20 August 2020)	<p>Every Tier 1, 2, and 3 local authority must amend its regional policy statement or district plan to give effect to the provisions of the NPS-UD.</p> <p>Tiers 1 and 2: prepare a HBA as it relates to housing (Policy 2, Part 3 subpart 5).</p> <p>Tiers 1, 2 and 3: remove minimum car parking requirements from district plans, other than for accessible car parks (Policy 11(a)).</p> <p>Tier 1: Intensification, i.e., modify the relevant building height or density requirements (Policies 3 and 4).</p> <p>Tier 2: intensification of urban environment heights and density of urban form (Policy 5).</p> <p>Tiers 1 and 2: first FDS made publicly available after commencement date (Policy 2, Part 3 subpart 4).</p> <p>Tiers 1 and 2: Prepare a Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment relating to both housing and business land (Policy 2, Part 3 subpart 5).</p>	<p>As soon as practicable</p> <p>By 31 July 2021</p> <p>Not later than 18 months after commencement date (20 February 2022)</p> <p>No later than 20 August 2022 (2 years after commencement date)</p> <p>No later than 20 August 2022 (2 years after commencement date)</p> <p>In time to inform the 2024 long term plan</p> <p>In time to inform the 2024 long term plan</p>

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
Urban Development Act 2020	<p>The Act gives Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities the function of facilitating large-scale urban development through “specified development projects” (SDPs) (subpart 1 of Part 2) and establishes strong expectation that Māori aspirations are identified and supported in urban development.</p> <p>Kāinga Ora are given wide powers to acquire land, fund infrastructure and development (including through targeted rates) and override regional and district plans and policy statements. It can transfer acquired land to developers.</p>	Yes (from 7 August 2020)	Section 298 (Amendment to section 117 Deferral and suspension).	Came into force on 30 September 2020
			Section 299(2) (Amendments to Kainga Ora – Homes and Communities Act 2019).	6 February 2021 (6 months after Royal assent)
			Section 299(3) (Amendments to Kainga Ora – Homes and Communities Act 2019).	Treated as coming into force 1 October 2019
COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020	This Act provides for a consenting process (via three pathways) to fast-track projects / resource consent applications that can boost employment and stimulate the economy. This process does not apply to plan changes.	Yes (from 9 July 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An expert consenting panel is appointed under Schedule 5. • Projects that are eligible must meet the purpose of the Act. • If an application is received prior to 8 July 2023, the provisions of the Act continue to apply for that application until the application process is completed. 	This Act will be repealed on 8 July 2023, 3 years from commencement
Resource Management Amendment Act 2020	The Amendment Act reversed some changes introduced in the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017. It also reduces new compliance, monitoring and enforcement provisions for councils and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and establishes a new freshwater planning process.	Yes (from 1 July 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections 26 to 33 (time frames for consents) • Section 37(1) (right to appeal to consent authority) • Sections 99 and 100 (right of objection/appeal against certain decisions). 	Came into force on 30 September 2020 (3 months after Royal assent)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections 17 to 21 (adding matters to be considered by regional councils/territorial authorities in policy statements & plans; repeal of provisions) • Section 35 (repeal of section relating to applications relating to discharge of greenhouse gases) • Section 36 (repeal of section relating to the implementation of national environmental standards). 	<p>Comes into force on 30 November 2022</p> <p>(Resource Management Amendment Act 2020 Commencement Order 2021)</p>

In Force

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Reform) Amendment Act 2020	<p>The changes to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) provide a wider range of compliance tools to help manage and maintain the integrity of the scheme and ensure it achieves its purpose, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new penalties introduced; • phasing out of industrial allocations from 2021; • an increase in fixed price option from \$25 to \$35 a unit for emissions/removals occurring in or attributed to 2020; • auctioning of New Zealand Units into the ETS is being introduced in 2021. 	<p>Yes (from 23 June 2020)</p>	Subpart 2	30 November 2020
			Subpart 3	1 January 2021
			Subpart 4 (includes amendments relevant to the forestry industry)	1 January 2023
			Subpart 5	1 January 2024
The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019	<p>The Amendment Act provides a framework by which NZ can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to the global effort under the Paris Agreement to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels; and • allow NZ to prepare for, and adapt to, the effects of climate change. <p>Four key changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Set a new domestic greenhouse gas emissions reduction target to reduce net carbon emissions to zero by 2050; 2) Establish a system of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones towards the long-term target; 3) Require the government to develop and implement policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation; 4) Establish a new independent Climate Change Commission to provide expert advice and monitoring to help keep successive governments on track. 	<p>Yes (from 14 November 2019)</p>	<p>Section 5X: NZ must set five-year emissions budgets at the national level, with three consecutive budgets in place at any time, 1 current and 2 prospective, in place at any one time. An emissions budget must be set and notified in the Gazette under section 5ZD, for the periods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 to 2025; • 2026 to 2030; and • 2031 to 2035 by 31 December 2021. 	<p>By 31 December 2021</p>
			<p>Next emissions budget for the period 2036 to 2040 must be set and notified.</p>	<p>By 31 December 2025</p>

In Force

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
<p>National Planning Standards</p>	<p>The National Planning Standards (“planning standards”) address the structure and form of plans, prescribe some national definitions and require plans to be accessible through an online interactive plan (ePlan). Timeframes for implementation of the planning standards vary for different councils.</p>	<p>Yes (from 5 April 2019)</p>	<p>All councils must meet basic electronic accessibility and functionality requirements.</p>	<p>Within one year from when the planning standards take effect (5 April 2020)</p>
			<p>Regional councils must adopt the planning standards for their regional policy statements and regional plans.</p>	<p>Within 3 years for regional policy statements, and 10 years for regional plans</p>
			<p>Unitary councils must adopt the planning standards.</p>	<p>Within 10 years</p>
			<p>City/district councils (except for councils in List 1 below) must adopt the planning standards and the definitions standard.</p>	<p>5 years to adopt the planning standards, and 7 years for definitions standard</p>
			<p>A group of councils (List 1 below) who have recently completed a plan review must make the changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christchurch City Council • Dunedin City Council • Hurunui District Council • Kapiti Coast District Council • Opotiki District Council • Queenstown-Lakes District Council • South Taranaki District Council • Thames-Coromandel District Council • Any territorial authorities committed to a combined district plan (through a council resolution, MOU or similar statutory obligation) under section 80(3) of the RMA. 	<p>7 years to adopt the planning standards and 9 years for definitions standard</p>

In Force

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
National Planning Standards continued			<p>Councils must adopt online interactive plans (ePlan).</p> <p>List 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christchurch City Council • Dunedin City Council • Invercargill City Council • Kapiti Coast District Council • Queenstown-Lakes District Council • Thames-Coromandel District Council • Any territorial authorities committed to a combined district plan [through a council resolution, MOU or similar statutory obligation] under section 80(3) of the RMA. 	Generally within 5 years, except for those in List 2 have 7 years
			All regional councils and unitary councils, and city/district councils with under 15,000 ratepayers (List 3) must adopt ePlan.	Within 10 years

Proposed

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
Proposed amendments to Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water) Regulations 2007 (NES-DW)	The current NES-DW sets requirements for protecting sources of human drinking water from becoming contaminated. The Government consulted on three proposals to strengthen the ability of NES-DW to protect drinking water sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • standardising the way we define source water areas; • strengthening regulation of activities around water sources; and • including more water suppliers under the NES-DW. 	No	Consultation on proposed amendments to the NES-DW closed.	6 March 2022
			Final policy advice to the Government on the preferred options expected to be released.	2022
Water Services Entities Bill	The Bill proposes to establish 4 publicly owned water services entities to provide safe, reliable, and efficient water services in place of local authorities. It contains the ownership, governance, and accountability arrangements relating to those entities, and provides for transitional arrangements during an establishment period.	No	The Working Group expected to have reported back on the exposure draft, which would enable Ministers to consider recommendations before the Bill is introduced.	28 February 2022
			The Bill is expected to go to the Select Committee.	Early 2022
			The entities will commence delivery of services.	1 July 2024
Conservation Law Reform	The Minister of Conservation announced in its 10 December 2021 press release plans to make more immediate improvements to conservation management planning and permissions, and to review the Wildlife Act 1953. The Department of Conservation is also starting to lay the groundwork for comprehensive law reform, looking at the wide range of conservation legislation.	No	Consultation is currently underway and will continue to the beginning of 2022.	Beginning of 2022
			Public consultation is planned.	Second half of 2022
Emissions Reduction Plan	This will be the government's response to the Climate Change Commission's recommendation and will set out the first stage in the pathway to net zero in 2050 (i.e., first emissions budget 2022 to 2025).	No	Consultation on the Emissions Reduction Plan discussion document closed.	24 November 2021
			Plan expected to be finalised.	By 31 May 2022
Waste legislation and strategy review	A new national waste strategy and legislation are being developed to better regulate how NZ manages products and materials circulating our economy. The Government is proposing new and more comprehensive legislation on waste to replace the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Litter Act 1979.	No	Submission on consultation document closed.	15 October 2021

Proposed

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Waste legislation and strategy review continued		No	Final waste strategy to Cabinet expected to be released.	Mid-2022
			If the Government decides to go ahead with new waste legislation, a bill expected to be introduced to Parliament.	Later in 2022
			If the Bill is passed by Parliament, it will likely come into force in mid-2023. Development of regulations under the new Act will commence in 2023.	2023
Review into the Future for Local Government	On 23 April 2021, the Minister of Local Government established a Review into the Future for Local Government. The purpose of the Review is to identify how our system of local democracy and governance needs to evolve over the next 30 years, to improve the wellbeing of NZ communities and environment, and actively embody the Treaty partnership. The scope comprises what local government does, how it does it, and how it pays for it. The Review will consider the implications of the Government's planned resource management reform, three waters reform, and other policy decisions for the local government sector.	No	An interim report on the probable direction of the Review was issued.	8 October 2021
			Draft report and recommendations to be issued for public consultation.	30 September 2022
			Review presents final report to the Minister and Local Government New Zealand.	30 April 2023
Draft Infrastructure Strategy	The New Zealand Infrastructure Commission has released the draft New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy. This provides for a 30-year plan to address the infrastructure issues NZ is facing, and possible opportunities. It also sets out a vision for the role infrastructure can have in supporting NZ's future and contained objectives and recommendations to local and central government and the infrastructure sector, including resource management reform, emissions reduction, and a national digital strategy. This is a 'living document' that will be updated every five years.	No	New Zealand Infrastructure Commission – Te Waihanga, released a draft New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy.	Early October 2021
			Te Waihanga will provide a final strategy to the Minister which must be tabled in Parliament.	Early 2022
			The Government has six months from then to respond to the recommendations in the Strategy.	

Proposed

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Further reforms to New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	Proposed changes were aimed at ensuring the integrity and efficiency of the ETS, the promotion of confidence in market trading and reducing the risk of misconduct in the ETS.	No	Consultation on a governance framework and reforms to industrial allocation closed.	17 September 2021
			Summary of submissions published.	17 December 2021
			Changes are likely to be progressed through another amendment to the Climate Change Response Act, and later through changes to the industrial allocation regulations.	2022
			Changes expected to take effect.	2024
Natural and Built Environments Act (proposed)³ (NBA)	The proposed NBA will be the main replacement for the RMA and will provide for a national planning framework, which would set national direction and environmental limits, and require Natural and Built Environments Act plans. It is to work in tandem with the Strategic Planning Act.	No	Government released an exposure draft of the NBA.	29 June 2021
			Submissions closed on the NBA.	4 August 2021
			Environment Committee released its report on its inquiry on the NBA.	1 November 2021
			Consultation on the Ministry for the Environment discussion document – Our future resource management system closes. This document will shape the NBA and SPA.	28 February 2022
			NBA Bill expected to be formally introduced.	Second half of 2022
			Act expected to be passed into law. The aim is to pass into law in the current parliamentary term.	By end of 2023
Strategic Planning Act (proposed) (SPA)	The proposed SPA will require the development of long-term regional spatial strategies to help coordinate and integrate decisions made under relevant legislation. It will provide a strategic and long-term approach to how we plan for using land and the coastal marine area.	No	Bill expected to be formally introduced together with the Natural and Built Environments Bill.	Second half of 2022
			Expected to be passed into law. The aim is to pass into law in the current parliamentary term.	By end of 2023

³ The report of the Resource Management Review Panel appointed by the Minister for the Environment and chaired by retired Court of Appeal Judge, Hon Tony Randerson QC, released its report on 29 July 2020. The report recommends replacing the RMA with three new pieces of legislation, namely: the Natural and Built Environments Act (NBA), the Strategic Planning Act (SPA); and the Managed Retreat and Climate Change Adaptation Act (CAA). In February 2021, the Government announced that it would be repealing the RMA and adopting the proposal from the Randerson Report in that it would create three new pieces of legislation.

Proposed

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
Climate Adaptation Act (proposed) (CAA)	The proposed CAA is a key part of delivery of the National Adaptation Plan. The proposed CAA will seek to address issues associated with managed retreat and funding and financing adaptation.	No	Public consultation to inform policy development and the design of the Climate Adaptation Act is expected to take place in March/April 2022. Further opportunities to engage on this matter will also be held during the public consultation for the National Adaptation Plan in April/May subject to agreement by Ministers.	First half of 2022
			Bill expected to be introduced. The aim is to pass into law in the current parliamentary term.	By end of 2023
Proposed National Direction on Industrial Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<p>This will be used as a regulatory tool to develop nationally consistent rules with a focus on decarbonising process heat as NZ transitions to a low emission economy. The proposals include banning new low and medium temperature coal boilers, phasing out coal in existing sites by 2037 for low and medium temperature process heat, and requiring some industrial sites to have emission reduction plans.</p> <p>The discussion document comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposed national environmental standard supported by a targeted national policy statement for the management of greenhouse gases from process heat; and • A proposal for non-binding guidance on how greenhouse gases will be considered under the RMA more generally. 	No	Submissions on consultation document closed.	20 May 2021
			Final decisions will be made by Cabinet. Guidance will be provided on GHG Plans and applying the best practicable option as well as links to available technical standards, and best practice.	First half of 2022
Proposed National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL)	The proposed NPS-HPL would require local authorities to identify highly productive land based on a set of defined criteria (soil capability, climate, water availability, size etc) with Land-Use Capability (LUC) Class 1 to 3 being the default criteria to determine highly productive land until this process has been undertaken. Councils would be required to consider the availability of highly productive land within their region or district for primary production now and for future generations.	No	Submissions released on the proposed NPS-HPL.	4 November 2020

Proposed

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
<p>Proposed National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL) continued</p>			<p>Final decisions on the proposed NPS-HPL made by Ministers and Cabinet.</p>	<p>First half of 2022</p>
			<p>If approved by Cabinet, NPS-HPL will likely take effect.</p>	<p>First half of 2022</p>
			<p>Councils will fully implement the NPS-HPL.</p>	<p>5 years after it comes into force</p>
<p>Proposed National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB)</p>	<p>The proposed NPS-IB sets out the objectives and policies to identify, protect, manage, and restore indigenous biodiversity under the RMA.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Public consultation on the proposed NPS-IB.</p>	<p>Between November 2019 and January 2020</p>
			<p>Decisions on the release of an exposure draft of the proposed NPS-IB expected to be made.</p>	<p>First half of 2022</p>
			<p>NPS-IB expected to come into force.</p>	<p>28 days after the date of notification in the Gazette</p>
			<p>Ministry of the Environment undertakes a first assessment of the NPS-IB's effect on regional policy statements and regional and district plans, resource consents, designation and other decision making.</p>	<p>Within 10 years of the NPS-IB commencement date</p>
			<p>3.19(3) Local authorities to directly insert into their plans the following policy [or replace with like for like content]:</p> <p><i>"If the regional policy statement or this plan requires a site to be assessed to determine whether it is an area of significant indigenous vegetation of significant habitat of indigenous fauna:</i></p> <p><i>(a) the assessment must be done in accordance with Appendix 1 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2020.; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) any site confirmed as an SNA through that assessment must be classified as High or Medium in accordance with Appendix 2 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2020.</i></p>	<p>Within 1 year of commencement date</p>

Proposed

Name	Brief Description	In Force?	Specific Rules / Requirements	Timeframe
<p>Proposed National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) continued</p>			<p>3.18 Regional Councils without a regional diversity strategy must complete a strategy.</p>	<p>Must initiate preparation of the strategy within 3 years of the commencement date; and must complete the strategy within 6 years of the commencement date</p>
			<p>3.8(1)(a) Territorial authorities must:</p> <p>(1) Undertake a district wide assessment to determine if an area is significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant indigenous fauna and classify the areas as High or Medium</p> <p>(2) Use the prescribed principles and approaches when undertaking the assessment and classification.</p>	<p>Within 5 years of the commencement date</p>
			<p>3.8(4) Territorial authorities that can demonstrate conformance [and therefore do not need to undertake the district wide assessment or classify areas as either High or Medium] through an assessment by a suitably qualified ecologist are required to do so.</p>	<p>Within 3 years after the commencement date</p>
			<p>3.8(6) Territorial authorities must notify any plan or plan change necessary to map areas identified in subclauses [1] and [2] and to give effect to subclauses [1], [2], [3], [4] and [5].</p>	<p>Within 6 years of the commencement date</p>