

Draft Renewable Electricity Generation NPS

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ARC Evidence: Overview

- The provision of greater policy guidance through the NPS is welcomed
- The NPS's Preamble accurately outlines key issues and the Objective is clearly stated and measurable
- However, the ARC seeks a number of amendments, particularly with regard to the provision of guidance on the assessment of environmental effects

ARC Evidence: Regional Context

- The Auckland Sustainability Framework (ASF)
- The Auckland Regional Planning Statement (ARPS)
- Growth management and security of supply

ARC Evidence: Summary of Issues

- Achieving the purpose of the RMA and the weighing of environmental effects
- Ensuring the policies respect the Preamble and Objective
- Recognising small and community-scale renewable electricity generation activities
- Considering economic benefits where there are adverse environmental effects
- Implementing the NPS

ARC Evidence: Suggested Policy Revisions

Policy 1 – Recognising the national significance of the benefits of renewable electricity generation activities

Retain subject to the following amendments (shown in underlined red text):

“The economic and social benefits of renewable electricity generation activities, at any scale, are of national significance. Decision makers must have particular regard to the national, regional and local benefits relevant to renewable electricity generation activities. These benefits may include, but are not limited to:

- i maintaining or increasing electricity generation capacity while avoiding, reducing or displacing greenhouse gas emissions*
- ii maintaining or increasing security of electricity at local, regional and national levels by diversifying the type and location of electricity generation*
- iii integrating the renewable electricity generation activity with the transmission network and the establishment of peak load and/or back up generation while avoiding, remedying and mitigating the effects of these activities.”*

ARC Evidence: Suggested Policy Revisions

Policy 2 – Acknowledging the practical constraints associated with renewable electricity generation activities

Retain

Policy 3 – Having regard for the relative reversibility of adverse effects associated with particular generation types

Consideration needs to be given with regard to providing a definition of the term 'reversibility' referred to in Policy 3. Furthermore, the following amendments to the Policy are requested (shown in underlined red text):

"When considering proposals to develop new renewable electricity generation activities, decision-makers must consider the relative degree and likelihood of reversibility of the adverse environmental effects associated with proposed generation technologies."

ARC Evidence: Suggested Policy Revisions

Policy 4 – Enabling identification of renewable electricity generation possibilities

Consider deleting Policy 4 and address this issue through a NES

Policy 5 – Supporting small and community-scale renewable electricity generation

Retain

ARC Evidence: Suggested Additional Policies

Policy x:

“When considering the environmental effects of new renewable electricity generation infrastructure, decision makers must have particular regard to the extent to which any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated through the site selection process.”

ARC Evidence: Suggested Additional Policies

Policy y:

“Planning and development of renewable electricity generation infrastructure should minimise adverse effects on residential and recreational amenity and general rural character”.

ARC Evidence: Suggested Additional Policies

Policy z:

“Planning and development of renewable electricity generation infrastructure should avoid significant adverse effects on significant natural and cultural heritage values including outstanding natural features and landscapes, areas of significant natural character and areas of high recreational value and amenity”.

ARC Evidence: Recommendation

The Board of Inquiry should confirm the Proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation subject to these suggested amendments to the policies and any other further or consequential amendments required to give effect to the issues raised.



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