



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Resource Management Amendment Bill: Climate Change Commencement Dates and Making Technical COVID-19 Amendments Permanent

Portfolio Environment

On 27 May 2020, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

#### Climate change commencement dates

- 1 **noted** that on 24 February 2020, Cabinet agreed to a set of amendments for inclusion in the Resource Management Amendment Bill (the Bill) for climate change, to take effect from 31 December 2021 in alignment with the first emissions reduction plan [CAB-20-MIN-0051.01];
- 2 **noted** that national direction for climate change is critical to ensuring successful implementation of the climate change amendments in the Bill but that, in light of COVID-19, national direction may not be able to be in place by 31 December 2021;
- 3 **agreed** to amend the decision referred to in paragraph 1 above [CAB-20-MIN-0051.01, paragraphs 8 and 9] by retaining the current date in the Bill but allowing commencement to be extended by Order in Council, with a backstop deadline of 30 November 2022;

#### Making RMA changes made by the CRLA permanent

- 4 **noted** that the COVID-19 Response (Further Management Measures) Legislation Act 2020 inserted sections 2AC and 39AA to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), enabling the use of electronic publication and the use of audio-visual links in RMA hearings;
- 5 **noted** that these sections are set to expire on 31 October 2021;
- 6 **agreed** to amend the RMA to make sections 2AC and 39AA permanent;
- 7 **agreed** to amend the RMA, if necessary, to clarify that section 39AA enables the use of audio-visual links in hearings conducted by boards of inquiry or water conservation orders;

#### Next steps

- 8 **authorised** the Minister for the Environment to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft an amendment to the Bill to give effect to the above paragraphs;

- 9 **agreed** that the amendments proposed above be included in a Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) to the Bill;
- 10 **invited** the Minister for the Environment to submit the SOP directly to Cabinet for approval so that it can be introduced at the Committee of the Whole House stage of the Bill;
- 11 **noted** that on 24 February 2020, Cabinet invited the Minister for the Environment to report back by 31 May 2020 on detailed timeframes for national direction [CAB-20-MIN-0051.01, paragraph 12];
- 12 **agreed** to extend the reporting date referred to in paragraph 11 above to 31 July 2020.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Jenny Salesa  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon James Shaw  
Hon Eugenie Sage

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV