



A WAY FORWARD FOR NATIONAL DIRECTION

2016

Introduction

National direction sets out how specific resources should be managed to protect the environment, strengthen the economy and enable New Zealanders to provide for their social and cultural well-being.

This brochure provides information on the current priorities for national direction, and updates the list of priorities published in August 2015.

List of priorities

The Government uses the Resource Management Act 1991 to set national direction through national policy statements (NPSs), national environmental standards (NESSs) and regulations.

The list of priorities for national direction will give communities, businesses and councils more certainty about upcoming national direction.

To qualify for national direction, a topic must involve one of the following:

- significant national-level benefits, costs or values
- significant benefits of having a consistent approach across the country
- technical complexity that makes it more efficient or effective to address the issue at the national level.



List of regulations, national environmental standards and national policy statements

Topic	Indicative date of completion	Description
Telecommunication facilities (amendments)	Late 2016	Changes to bring the existing NES up to date with current technology and to expand permitted activities outside the road reserve.
Urban development capacity	Late 2016	Requirements for councils to provide sufficient capacity for urban development to meet demand for housing and business needs.
Plantation forestry	Early 2017	Nationally consistent rules to manage plantation forestry with more efficiency and certainty, and maintain or improve environmental outcomes.
Freshwater management (amendments to the National Policy Statement)	Consultation in late 2016	Potential amendments to clarify how existing policies are to be applied.
Stock exclusion from water bodies	Mid-2017	A nationally consistent approach to exclude stock from water ways, starting with dairy cattle and pigs, and ultimately applying to beef cattle and deer.
Pest control	Early 2017	Simplifying the regulatory regime for certain toxins used to manage pest mammals and fish by removing duplication between the Resource Management Act and other legislation, including the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act.
Aquaculture	Mid-2017	Nationally consistent rules for coastal plans for the management of aquaculture, including simpler and more certain re-consenting provisions for existing farms.
Air (amendments to the National Environmental Standard)	Late 2017	Updating the provisions relating to particulate matter to reflect the costs of compliance and current science on health impacts.
Contaminants in soil (amendments to the National Environmental Standard)	Mid-2017	Changes to make the existing NES more targeted toward risks from contaminants.
End of life tyres	Late 2017	Nationally consistent rules for the responsible storage of end-of-life tyres.
Dam safety	Early 2018	Developing a set of rules and conditions to ensure best-practice dam safety management is applied to all relevant dams.
Biodiversity	Late 2018	Set out objectives and policies about managing natural and physical resources to maintain indigenous biodiversity.
Natural hazards	Late 2018	Guidance on managing significant risks from natural hazards.

Updating the list of priorities

As work progresses on the current list, the Government will also work to identify new priorities. An updated list of national direction priorities will be published in late 2017/early 2018.

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