

# FACT SHEET: Electrify NZ

## Timeframes:

Electrify NZ	
Milestone	Estimated timing
Fast-track legislation enacted	Late 2024
Cabinet decisions on scope of RM Amendment Bill 2	June 2024
RM Amendment Bill 2 introduced	Later in 2024
Broader review of national direction – policy decisions and commence drafting for consultation	Later 2024
Improvements to network regulation – for new connections and lower connection charges (Electricity Authority and Commerce Commission)	Decisions during 2024 and 2025
RM Bill 2 enacted & national direction package implemented	Mid 2025

## Further detail:

### 1. Establishing a one-stop-shop fast track approvals and permitting regime

- The one-stop-shop Fast-track regime will provide a pathway for major renewable energy and transmission projects to be consented sooner and more efficiently.
- The Fast-track Approvals (FTA) Bill is currently before the Environment Committee for review. The Select Committee report is expected on 18 October 2024, and the Bill is expected to return to Parliament and become law later this year.
- All project applications are confidential while being considered by the Advisory Group.
- The amendments to the RMA and National Direction (advanced through Phase Two of RMA Reform) are necessary to enable REG and ET activities where an application is not eligible for the fast track, or where the applicant prefers not to use that process.

### 2. Amendments to the RMA to speed up resource consenting

- The consenting changes in the second RMA amendment bill are focused on accelerating the standard consent process by reducing the time it takes for decisions on consents.
- The intent is for the default consent duration to be 35 years for renewable energy consents.

- As part of this process, officials will consult with relevant Post-Settlement Governance Entities and other iwi, hapū and Māori groups to ensure any impacts on those settlements are upheld to honour undertakings made by the Crown.

### **3. Stronger national direction for renewable energy**

- The National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission (NPS-REG and NPS-ET) will be amended as part of the national direction programme. These amendments will create more directive and enabling national direction for renewable electricity generation, transmission and distribution.
- These changes will deliver nationally consistent 'consenting pathways' for renewable electricity generation and electricity transmission activities.
- Officials are developing proposals that will include clear direction to decision-makers when considering REG/ET activities in areas that include significant environmental values.
- These proposals will improve and accelerate the consenting process for generation and transmission activities by providing greater certainty as to both process and outcome.
- The national policy statements will inform the development of further complementary national environmental standards.

### **4. A new regime for offshore wind**

- The regime introduces two dedicated offshore renewable energy permits:
  - a. Feasibility permits will give the certainty to undertake feasibility studies, in a specified area. Feasibility permits will last for seven years.
  - a. Commercial permits will enable construction and operation of offshore renewable energy infrastructure. Commercial permits can be sought for up to 40 years.
- The offshore renewables regime covers all forms of offshore renewable energy. Offshore wind is the most developed technology.
- The regime is designed to work alongside, and not duplicate, environmental consenting regimes. Offshore renewable energy developers will be required to obtain resource and/or marine consents, in addition to feasibility permits. Offshore renewable energy projects may also be eligible for fast-track approvals.
- The regime will also include provisions for safety zones around infrastructure to protect people and assets, and safeguards to ensure decommissioning occurs at developers' expense.
- Decision-making on permits will follow similar regimes like the Crown Minerals Act, where responsibility for permitting decisions is vested in the responsible Minister (the Minister for Energy) but can be delegated to the regulator (MBIE). The regime will be funded by fees paid by developers.
- Offshore wind will be expected to compete on the same commercial basis as other electricity generation. The Government's focus is on enabling the market to deliver by creating the right regulatory environment.

- Details of the design of the regime and the indicative timeline for the regime can be found here: [Offshore renewable energy | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment \(mbie.govt.nz\)](https://www.mbie.govt.nz/offshore-renewable-energy).

## 5. Updated regulatory settings for electricity networks and new connections

<b>Electricity Authority / Commerce Commission considerations</b>	
<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Estimated timing</b>
Distribution pricing reform (EA)	Consultation September – October 2024 Decisions first half 2025
Improving the efficiency of network connections for large load and distributed generation (EA)	Consultation September 2024 Decisions late 2024
Regulated revenue path determinations for Transpower and regulated EDBs 2025-2030 (Commission)	Final decisions November 2024