

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Napier or Hastings in New Zealand, showing a long sandy beach, waves, and a dense urban area extending inland. The sky is clear and blue.

A WAY FORWARD FOR NATIONAL DIRECTION

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.

List of priorities

The Government uses the Resource Management Act to set national direction through national policy statements (NPSs), national environmental standards (NESs) 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 environmental standards and policies

Topic	Indicative date of completion	Description
Telecommunication facilities (amendments)	2016	Changes to bring the existing NES up to date with current technology.
Plantation forestry	2016	Nationally-consistent rules to reduce compliance costs for plantation forestry.
Urban development	2016	Requirements for councils to provide sufficient capacity for urban development including housing.
Freshwater management (amendments)	Consultation in 2016	Next steps on freshwater management from Land and Water Forum and Iwi Leaders discussions to improve governance, quality and allocation including new requirements to exclude dairy cattle from waterways.
Biodiversity (subject to agreement on terms of reference between farmers and conservation groups)	2016/17	Clear national guidance on implementation of section 6(c) of the RMA.
Pest control/eradication	2016	Improving the regulatory approach to pest control and avoiding duplication with the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act.
Air (amendments)	2016	Changes to the existing NES to incorporate current findings on the health impacts of air pollution.
Aquaculture	2016	Nationally-consistent framework for the management of aquaculture space to provide greater certainty for investment in aquaculture.
Contaminants in soil (amendments)	2017	Changes to make the existing NES more targeted toward risks from contaminants.
Natural hazards	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 2016.

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