AGENDA

Development and Growth Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 11 August 2026

Date	**Tuesday, 11 August 2026**
Time	**9:00 am**
Location	**Council Chambers** **Timaru District Council** **King George Place** **Timaru**
File Reference	**1860090**

Timaru District Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Development and Growth Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, Timaru District Council, King George Place, Timaru, on Tuesday 11 August 2026, at 9:00 am.

Development and Growth Committee Members

Clrs Scott Shannon (Chairperson), Peter Burt, Owen Jackson, Chris Thomas, Philip Harper and Mayor Nigel Bowen

Quorum – no less than 3 members

Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

Committee members are reminded that if you have a pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda, then you must declare this interest and refrain from discussing or voting on this item, and are advised to withdraw from the meeting table.

Nigel Trainor
Chief Executive

Order Of Business

1 Apologies

2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of the Development and Growth Committee Meeting held on 9 June 2026

Author: **Jessica Kavanaugh, Democracy Services Lead**

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Development and Growth Committee Meeting held on 9 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson’s electronic signature be attached.

Attachments

1. Minutes of the Development and Growth Committee Meeting held on 9 June 2026

MINUTES

Development and Growth Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 9 June 2026

Ref: 1860090

Minutes of Timaru District Council
Development and Growth Committee Meeting
Held in the Council Chambers, Timaru District Council, King George Place, Timaru
on Tuesday, 9 June 2026 at 9:00 am

Present: Mayor Nigel Bowen and Clrs Scott Shannon (Chairperson), Peter Burt, Owen Jackson, Chris Thomas, Philip Harper

In Attendance: **Councillors:** Graeme Wilson, Michelle Pye, Stacey Scott

Community Board Members: Anna Lyon (Pleasant Point), Shane Minnear (Geraldine), John Jackson (Temuka).

Officers: Stephen Doran (Acting Chief Executive/General Manager Corporate), Paul Cooper (General Manager Regulatory Development and Growth), Andrew Dixon (General Manager Assets and Infrastructure), Aaron Hakkaart (Planning Manager), Suzy Ratahi (General Manager Land Transport), Justin Bagust (Chief Information Officer), Elliot Higbee (Legal Services Manager), Steph Forde (Corporate and Strategic Planner), Claire Copeland (Executive Assistant Regulatory and Land Transport), Maddison Gourlay (Marketing and Communications Advisor), Meghan Taylor (Acting Democracy Services Lead).

1 Apologies

The Projects and Procurement Committee acknowledge the apology of Nigel Davenport (Chief Executive, Venture Timaru)

2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

No items of urgent business were received.

3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of the Development and Growth Committee Meeting held on 12 May 2026

Resolution 2026/19

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Clr Chris Thomas

That the Minutes of the Development and Growth Committee Meeting held on 12 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

6 Reports

6.1 Actions Register Update

The purpose of this report is to provide the Development and Growth Committee with an update on the status of the action requests raised by Councillors at previous Committee meetings.

Items to be removed from the actions register:

- Flood and stop bank protection work by ECan
- Share the Climate Change priorities work journey
- Build on the connection between Timaru District Council & MacKenzie District Council

Utilisation of AI & Training – An update will be given as item 6.2 of this agenda.

Development and Growth Committee Work Program - No update.

Resolution 2026/20

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Clr Philip Harper

That the Development and Growth Committee receives and notes the updates to the Actions Register.

Carried

6.2 Utilisation of AI Tools and Training Across Council

The Chief Information Officer spoke to the report to provide the Development and Growth Committee with an overview of the current utilisation of AI tools and training across Council. The Chief Information Officer highlighted recent progress in enhancing access to authorised Council information through integrated AI tools, improving the reliability of internal referencing.

The Committee noted the establishment of an internal group of staff trialling AI tools to explore practical applications and efficiencies. Early feedback indicated improved productivity and time savings, with learnings to be shared more broadly across the organisation.

The Chief Information Officer noted that AI tools are operating within a controlled Council environment, with appropriate safeguards in place. Ongoing monitoring, clear user responsibilities, and staff training were identified as key components supporting safe and effective use.

The Committee acknowledged that the current approach is focused on building capability through targeted pilots, with the intention that adoption will expand over time and become embedded in business-as-usual activities.

The Mayor sought clarification on how Council will measure tangible outcomes from AI use, including productivity gains and governance improvements, and queried how these tools could be applied to high-volume regulatory functions. Officers confirmed that work is underway to identify measurable benefits and prioritise areas where the greatest value can be achieved.

It was emphasised that AI is intended to support, rather than replace, staff functions, acting as a tool to enhance efficiency and capability.

Resolution 2026/21

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Clr Peter Burt

That the Development and Growth Committee receive and note the Utilisation of AI Tools & Training across Council report.

Carried

6.3 Asset Management Plans Update

The Corporate and Strategic Planner supported by the Planning Manager spoke to the report to provide the Committee with an update on the review and development of Council's Asset Management Plans (AMPs) and confirmed that regular updates will continue as AMPs progress toward completion ahead of the LTP.

Reassurance was given regarding the timing of Water-related AMPs, it was confirmed that growth projections from Rationale are on track and will inform the finalisation of Water Supply, Wastewater and Stormwater AMPs. It was noted that legislation enables Council to reflect Water Services Strategy information at a high level without duplication, and that information from water and wastewater AMPs remains necessary for current planning work.

Discussion highlighted that existing Three Waters data provides a strong baseline, with ongoing improvements focused on addressing gaps such as growth projections. It was noted that AMPs are continuously updated as asset information changes, and that further integration work is underway in conjunction with Mackenzie District Council for the future water organisation. Assurance was given that this AMP is well advanced and will be completed in time to inform the LTP.

The Committee sought clarification on the status of the Property AMP. It was confirmed that this work, along with Parks, is progressing and on track, with preparation aligned to recommended standards.

Discussion also covered whether AMPs enable identification of critical infrastructure risks. It was noted that well-developed AMPs can identify critical assets; however, this capability is not yet consistent across all activity areas. Officers advised that further development during the current year will improve Council's ability to assess and prioritise critical infrastructure risks across the district.

Resolution 2026/22

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Clr Peter Burt

That the Development and Growth Committee receives and notes the Asset Management Plans Update report.

Carried

6.4 LTP 2027-37 Infrastructure Strategy Update

The Corporate and Strategic Planner, supported by the Planning Manager, spoke to the report to provide an update to the Committee on the development of the 2027-37 Long Term Plan (LTP) Infrastructure Strategy and seek endorsement for the addition of activity groups detailed in paragraph 14 in light of a proactive release related to the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill and wider Simplifying Local Government reform programme.

The Committee was advised that, following endorsement of the Infrastructure Strategy scope at the previous meeting, the release of information relating to the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill and wider Simplifying Local Government reform programme had altered the proposed reporting framework for councils. Officers noted that the proposed regulated groups of activities were likely to be implemented and, as a result, it was recommended that the scope of the Infrastructure Strategy be expanded now rather than waiting for the legislation and regulations to be finalised. This approach would ensure sufficient time to complete the required work and meet the planned audit milestone of 16 November 2026.

In discussion, it was noted that adopting the proposed activity group structure at this stage would position Council well for the Long Term Plan process, regardless of whether the legislation proceeded exactly as proposed. The Corporate and Strategic Planner advised that the expanded approach would strengthen Council's asset management practices and provide a more robust evidence base to support financial modelling, fees and charges, service level considerations, and future decision-making. It was further noted that addressing the four proposed infrastructure activity groups would improve Council's ability to demonstrate compliance with the infrastructure strategy requirements of section 101B of the Local Government Act 2002.

Resolution 2026/23

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Clr Peter Burt

That the Development and Growth Committee:

1. Receive the Infrastructure Strategy Update Report; and
2. Endorse the addition of activity groups detailed in paragraph 14 to the scope of the Infrastructure Strategy for the 2027-37 Long Term Plan

Carried

6.5 Current Options for Managing Urban Expansion and Zone Issues

The Planning Manager spoke to the report which outlines the options available to Council for addressing queries that seek to achieve large scale development that do not align with the underlying zoning of the Proposed District Plan (PDP), noting that it outlined options for facilitating large-scale developments that are not anticipated by the Proposed District Plan.

The Planning Manager advised that developments of a scale such as a 200-allotment residential subdivision in a rural zone would be unlikely to be achieved through a resource consent process and would generally require a plan change or rezoning process.

In response to questions, the Planning Manager confirmed that similar principles could apply to large-scale commercial or industrial developments where proposals were inconsistent with the underlying zoning, with each proposal requiring consideration on its individual merits.

Members discussed how community feedback on future growth opportunities could be considered through the spatial planning process. The Planning Manager advised that spatial planning would provide an opportunity to assess and compare growth options and gather community input before decisions on future development locations were made.

The Planning Manager advised that a future report would outline the proposed community engagement and spatial planning approach, with a project proposal to be presented to Council for consideration in preparation for the anticipated planning reforms.

Resolution 2026/24

Moved: Clr Chris Thomas
Seconded: Mayor Nigel Bowen

That the Development and Growth Committee receive and note the Current Options for Managing Urban Expansion and Zone Issues report.

Carried

6.6 Consultation Options for developing an Evidence Base

The Legal Services Manager, supported by the Planning Manager, presented the report outlining consultation options for developing an evidence base to inform future Regional Spatial Planning (RSP).

Members were advised that the proposed planning reforms represent a significant shift from the current framework, with Regional Spatial Plans expected to guide development, infrastructure investment and community outcomes over a 30-year horizon. It was noted that the emerging planning framework provides greater opportunity for early community involvement during the drafting phase of spatial planning, rather than relying on participation through formal statutory submission and hearing processes.

Officers advised that Council had deliberately focused on strengthening asset management planning and demand data rather than pursuing existing Future Development Strategy and Housing Business Assessment processes, given the anticipated legislative changes. The new approach was described as broader in scope, integrating infrastructure, local government, central government and community aspirations, rather than focusing primarily on housing growth.

Discussion focused on the importance of ensuring community aspirations are captured early in the process. Officers noted that once a draft Regional Spatial Plan proceeds to an Independent Hearing Process, opportunities to influence strategic direction become more limited and increasingly technical. Early engagement was therefore considered essential to establish community vision and secure social licence for the long-term planning framework.

Members questioned whether engagement would continue to be dominated by well-resourced sector and special interest groups. Officers acknowledged this risk and emphasised the importance of Council actively supporting community participation so that a broader range of views informs the drafting process.

The Planning Manager noted that the Government's planning reforms appear intended to streamline decision-making and reduce opportunities for lengthy litigation and appeals. Members discussed the potential implications of this approach, including balancing efficiency with protection of community interests and property rights.

Members also discussed the challenge of engaging residents who do not traditionally participate in Council processes. Officers advised that the focus should be on capturing the community's vision and aspirations in accessible ways, with technical planning work supporting those outcomes. It was noted that creating a sense of ownership and involvement throughout the process would help secure social licence for future planning decisions.

In response to questions regarding how community feedback would be gathered and reflected in outcomes, officers advised that territorial authorities would need to develop a coordinated regional approach to community engagement. This would include providing consistent information, creating structured engagement opportunities, and ensuring community feedback is appropriately recorded and considered during development of the Regional Spatial Plan.

Resolution 2026/25

Moved: Clr Chris Thomas
Seconded: Mayor Nigel Bowen

That the Development and Growth Committee receive and note the Consultation Options for Developing an Evidence Base report.

Carried

6.7 Draft Information Disclosure on Council’s Policy for funding Growth

The Legal Services Manager spoke to the report to provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment on the draft disclosure to the Commerce Commission on the Council’s Policy for Funding Growth, before Council authorisation on 30 June 2026, noting it provided a further update on the Commerce Commission information disclosure requirements previously considered by the Committee. The disclosure on Council's policy for funding growth reflects Council's current arrangements and will be presented to Council for adoption on 30 June 2026 before submission to the Commerce Commission.

Members were advised that the disclosure brings together, for the first time, the various elements of Council's approach to funding growth. Officers will continue to consider how funding arrangements align with Activity Management Plans and asset management planning as part of future work.

It was noted that Council is required to update the Commerce Commission within 10 working days of any changes to its growth funding policy settings.

Resolution 2026/26

Moved: Clr Peter Burt
Seconded: Clr Scott Shannon

That the Development and Growth Committee:

1. Receives and notes this report and the draft disclosure for the Commerce Commission on the Council’s Policy for Funding Growth; and

2. Provides comment, noting the disclosure will go to Council on 30 June 2026 for adoption, and then be provided to the Commerce Commission.

Carried

Attachments

1 Attachment to Minutes 09.06.2026 - Item 6.7 Draft Information Disclosure on Council s Policy for funding growth - Tabled Attachment - Draft Letters

7 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

No items of urgent business were received.

8 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

The meeting closed at 10.21am

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Clr Scott Shannon

Chairperson

6 Reports

6.1 Actions Register Update

Author: **Jessica Kavanaugh, Democracy Services Lead**

Authoriser: **Stephen Doran, Acting Chief Executive**

Recommendation That the Development and Growth Committee receives and notes the updates to the Actions Register.

Purpose of Report

1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Development and Growth Committee with an update on the status of the action requests raised by Councillors at previous Committee meetings.

Assessment of Significance

2 This matter is assessed to be of low significance under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as there is no impact on the service provision, no decision to transfer ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from Council, and no deviation from the Long Term Plan.

Discussion

3 The actions register is a record of actions requested by Councillors. It includes a status and comments section to update the Development and Growth Committee on the progress of each item.

4 There are currently two items on the actions register.

5 One item is marked as ongoing.

6 No items are marked as completed, and proposed to be marked as removed at the next meeting.

7 One item is marked as removed and will be taken off the list at the next meeting.

Attachments

1. Development and Growth Committee Actions Required ⇩

Information Requested from Councillors (Development and Growth Committee)

Key = Completed, for removal = 60+ Days = 90+ Days = Removed

~~**Information Requested**~~	~~Utilisation of AI & Training~~		
~~**Date Raised:**~~	~~10 March 2026~~	~~**Status:**~~	~~Complete~~
~~**Issue Owner**~~	~~Chief Information Officer (CIO)~~	~~**Completed Date:**~~	~~04.06.2026~~
Background: Prepare and present a report to the Development and Growth Committee on the planned utilisation of AI tools and the strategic development of their use across Council operations, within the next 6 months. **April 2026 Update**: A report has been prepared by the CIO which is currently being reviewed by the Chief Executive, for feedback. **May 2026 Update:** The report has been internally reviewed and required more information to be gathered before being presented to the Committee. **June 2026 Update:** The report is included within the agenda. This action is complete and can be removed from the register.			

Information Requested	Development and Growth Committee Work Program		
Date Raised:	14 April 2026	**Status:**	Ongoing
Issue Owner	Planning Manager, and the Legal Services Manager	**Completed Date:**	
Background: The Planning Manager presented the Development and Growth Committee Work Program that was adopted at the Committee's inaugural meeting. An update was provided on progress to date. That Mayor Nigel Bowen, Clr Scott Shannon, the Planning Manager, and the Legal Services Manager are to develop an updated work programmes and report back to the Committee. **July 2026:** Officers will provide an update report to the Development and Growth Committee meeting on 8 September 2026.			

#1808476

6.2 Update on Resource Management Reform and Select Committee Reports

Author: **Aaron Hakkaart, Planning Manager**

Authoriser: **Paul Cooper, General Manager Regulatory Development and Growth**

Recommendation

That the Development and Growth Committee receive and note the Update on Resource Management Reform and Select Committee Reports report.

Purpose of Report

1 This report provides the Development and Growth Committee an update on the outcomes of the Environment Select Committee (the Committee) process and subsequent reports on the Planning and Natural Environment Bill (PB and NEB), which were reported back to Parliament on 20 July 2026.

Assessment of Significance

2 This paper is not considered to be significant as it does not seek a decision, rather it highlights to the Committee the significant changes that are to occur to the resource management system, which Council will be required to implement.

Executive Summary

3 The Government is well advanced in the process of reforming the Resource Management Act 1991. The intent of the reform is to introduce new legislation to allow for a more streamlined and enabling resource management system.

4 The Environment Select Committee had the task of considering over 3,000 submissions on the Planning and Natural Environment Bills prior to reporting back. The Bills will now proceed to their second reading. The Government intends to enact the Bills before the election – which requires them to be passed before 24 September 2026.

5 In addition to the release of the Committee reports, the Government also announced several Cabinet decisions to amend the Committee's recommendations. Further amendments to the Bills will be needed to reflect these announcements.

6 The overall reform will materially impact on the way in which Council engages with 'resource management' with the transition to be immediate and occur at speed. The industry is grappling with the changes, and the transition will require significant adjustments to existing processes; with this to occur in an environment of uncertainty as everyone awaits further direction from the Government, both within this space, and local government reform more broadly.

High Level Summary of Changes

Key Takeaways

7 The Committee provided reports on both Bills. In doing so the Committee has retained the overall design of the reforms, as well as many elements of the original Bills: including the

structure (two separate but related Acts), the goals, the excluded effects, the treatment of Treaty settlement obligations and Māori interests, the requirement for regional spatial planning, and regulatory relief.

8 Significant amendments were made in several key areas including the extent of Ministerial control over environmental limits. However, many of the elements of the Bills that attracted a large volume of submissions were not recommended to be significantly changed.

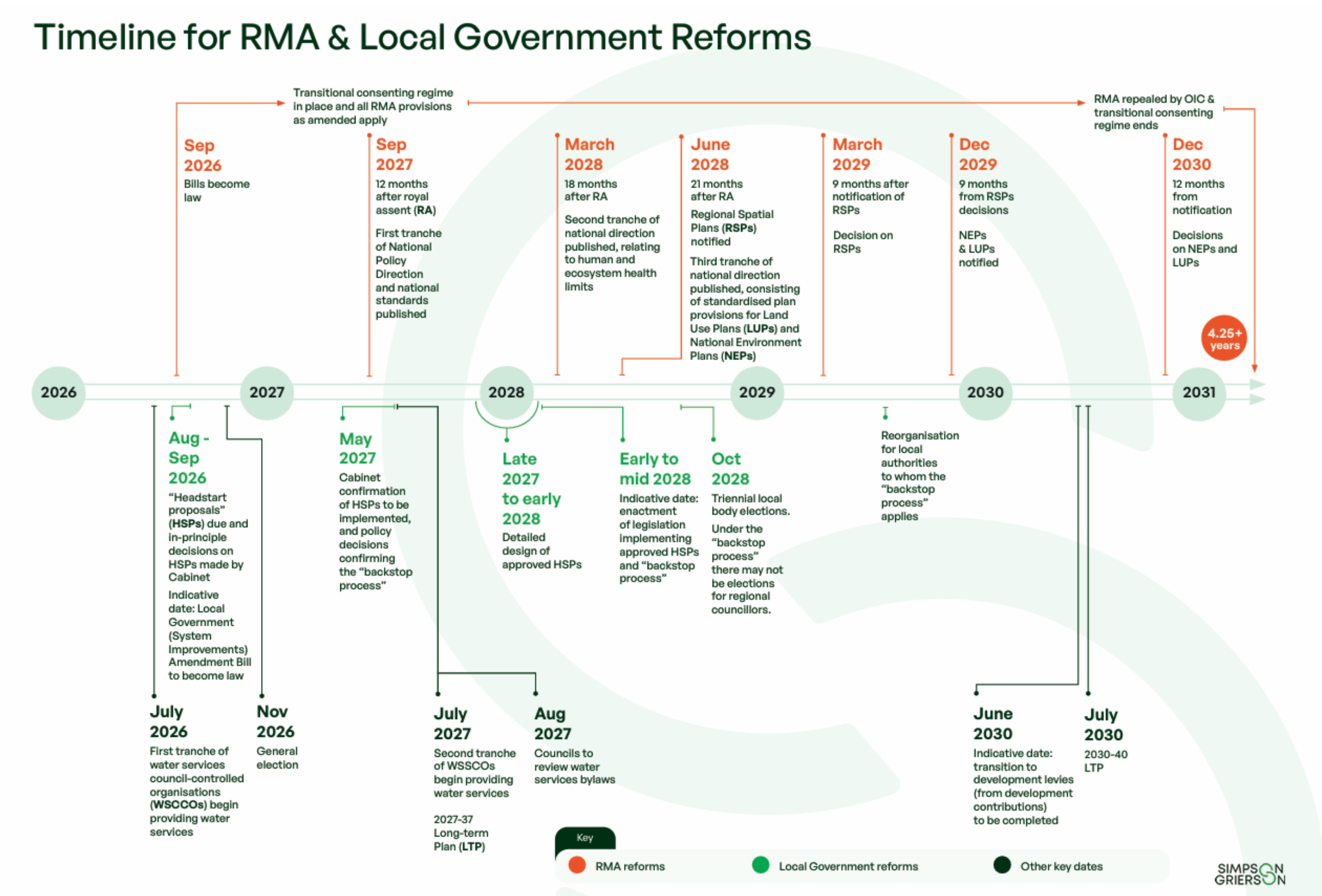
9 This report focuses on changes of interest that have been prominent within the initial assessment of the Committee reports. The scope of all changes and the impacts are still being understood and will not be fully understood until the final reading occurs.

10 Additionally, the detail around some of the significant changes will not be fully known until future National Direction is released, which is where the some of the 'on-the-ground' implications will be fully spelled out.

<u>The Transition Period</u>

11 The Committee agreed with the submitters that the transition timelines as introduced were 'ambitious and would place particular pressure on local authorities. It is recommended to extend the transition period by nine months.

12 Key instruments such as National Direction will be developed during this transition period, and the current legislation (subject to some changes made by the Planning Bill) will continue to apply. The timeline below shows just how much is expected to happen over the next four and a half years and includes the interaction with local government reform.



Purpose and Goals

13 The Committee recommended several refinements to the purpose and goals provisions of both Bills. The purpose of the PB is now 'to provide for the enjoyment of land by establishing a framework for planning and regulating the use and development of land.' This was done in response to advice that 'they are purpose clauses that have no purpose', albeit no changes were recommended to the NEB purpose.

14 Changes were also recommended to a number of goals that submitters identified as unclear, to create 'abundant' competitive urban land markets, to address infrastructure and environmental enhancement, and to add reference to food and fibre production.

15 The Committee disagreed with calls for a formal hierarchy between the goals, recommending instead that both Bills be amended to state expressly that the order in which the goals appear does not reflect their relative importance.

Climate Change

16 The Committee recommended that any adverse effect on climate change of any greenhouse gas emissions that could be increased by an activity is out of scope when considering the effects of an activity (new s15A of both Bills). This is a significant change, particularly as compared to the current RMA, and existing caselaw. It heralds a return to the exclusion on consideration of greenhouse gas emissions in consenting that applied under the RMA prior to 2020.

17 Any positive effects of an activity that are associated with avoiding, reducing, removing, or displacing greenhouse gas emissions, are still expressly in scope. While in scope, there remains no goal related to climate change mitigation or renewable energy that might lend support to renewable energy generation activities.

Integration between Bills

18 The Committee recommended two targeted amendments to address concerns in relation to the Bills seeking to treat some matters as separate when they cannot in practice be managed without reference to one and another. The NEB has been amended to remove the prohibition preventing permit authorities from considering effects regulated under the PB. The PB has also been amended to confirm that natural hazards and contaminated land are not excluded from consideration under the PB, even where those matters are dealt with under other legislation.

Environmental Limits

19 Submissions and advice to the Committee sought a number of changes including to provide a 'bottom line' and limit unfettered Ministerial control and intervention in environmental limits.

20 The Committee recommended introducing a framework under which the Minister can introduce national standards that permit other publicly beneficial activities (not only 'significant infrastructure') to breach human or ecosystem health limits in specific circumstances.

21 This Ministerial power to permit a breach of environmental limits can be used where the following criteria are met:

21.1 The public benefits of the activity must outweigh the harm to ecosystem or human health and community needs and aspirations, with specific consideration given to:

21.1.1 the wider implications for natural resource use;

21.1.2 the opportunity costs associated with authorising the activity;

21.1.3 the considerations that informed the setting of the environmental limit.

21.2 National standards must clearly identify the relevant activities or classes of activities that are allowed to breach identified limits (to make clear that the clause is invoked, and that councils must follow the standards even if it leads to a breach).

22 The Committee has also recommended consequential amendments to the obligations of councils, given the difficulties they may have in avoiding or remedying breaches of environmental limits allowed for as a result of national standards.

Transitional Consenting

23 As had been proposed when the Bills were first introduced, a transition period will commence 1 month after the Bills receive Royal assent. During the transition period resource consents will continue to be processed under the RMA, as it will be amended by the Bills. This is an element of the Bills that is important, as it will have almost immediate implications.

24 Two potentially significant amendments have been proposed by the Committee, via changes to the amendments the Bills make to the RMA until its repeal.

25 First, the Committee has recommend inserting a provision into the RMA that enables district councils to make targeted updates to RMA district plans during the transition period, to remove plan provisions relating to effects that are out of scope of the new Bills without having to use the standard plan change process. This is actually achieved by creating a specific type of permitted activity, where the activity breaches a rule that concerns out of scope effects (new 104AA of the RMA).

26 Second, the Committee has proposed amending section 104 of the RMA to exclude a different list of matters from consideration as "effects on the environment for any purpose under a district plan". Those excluded effects do not include landscape effects, which were an excluded effect during transitional consenting in the first reading version of the Bills.

Private Plan Changes

27 The Committee significantly reduced the grounds on which a council can reject a private request to change a land use plan or natural environment plan, retaining only timing-related grounds, on the basis that requests should be evaluated on their merits once lodged. The "lock-in period", during which a private plan change request can be rejected on timing grounds, was shortened from two years to 12 months.

New Allocation Methods Removed

28 The Committee recommended removal of the two proposed new allocation methods introduced by the NEB - comparative permitting and market-based mechanisms (auctions and tenders). Concerns were raised broadly by submitters about the design and function of these methods, and that reforming allocation before resolving Māori freshwater rights and interests could reinforce existing inequalities, be inconsistent with te Tiriti o Waitangi, and prejudice the ability to resolve those rights in the future. The existing allocation framework is retained, including first-in first-served permitting and priority for existing permit holders when permits are replaced.

Regional Spatial Planning and National Direction Clarifications

29 The most notable change the Committee has made is a new clause requiring spatial plan committees to consider new information from time to time, including environmental limits, and identify whether and when to initiate a review.

30 The Committee has added a requirement that each spatial plan committee include at least one member with "knowledge, skill, and experience relating to te ao Māori and Māori development," aligning with the approach taken under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

31 There is also a new “pre-notification consultation” step, which requires spatial plan committees to consult on a draft regional spatial plan with relevant Ministers, adjacent regional or territorial authorities, iwi authorities, water organisations, infrastructure providers, representatives of the development sector, other sector groups, and the “wider community”, and customary marine title groups. This should help to improve the quality of draft regional spatial plans, but it will also add further pressure to the already tight timeframes for preparing the first regional spatial plans.

32 The Minister's power to make decisions on Independent Hearing Panel (IHP) recommendations relating to regional spatial plans has been narrowed. The Minister may now only intervene on recommendations relating to nationally significant infrastructure and Crown-owned or Crown-funded assets, and nationally significant matters in the coastal marine area identified in a national instrument.

33 Clarification of national direction has also been recommended. The Committee found substantial overlap between the roles of national policy direction and national standards and has restructured both to give each a defined purpose. National policy direction is now expressly for high-level policy direction and national standards are confined to providing procedural and regulatory consistency. Notably, national policy direction cannot directly dictate the contents of regional spatial plans, land use plans, or natural environment plans, with only national standards being able to do this.

Activity Classification and Permitted Activity Tweaks

34 The Committee recommended that registration requirements for permitted activities be limited to those expressly required by national standards and that most permitted activities should not require registration. The relationship between registered permitted activities and certificates of compliance has also been clarified.

35 Controlled activities have been reinstated in the NEB primarily in response to concerns from the aquaculture and agriculture sectors, which rely on the certainty this activity class provides. The principles for classifying activities are explicitly guidance, as the actual level and nature of effects will also inform how an activity is classified. There are still no controlled activities under the PB.

Discussion

36 The resource management reforms, and the tight timeframe for the transition to the new regime, sit within a broader programme of legislative change for the local government sector, this includes:

36.1 The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill, introduced in August 2025 and currently having its second reading before Parliament;

36.2 The Government's proposal to introduce a "rates cap", which would impose a new constraint on the funding available to local authorities;

36.3 The Government's proposed reforms to the structure of local government, through the "Headstart Proposals" process;

36.4 The ongoing implementation of the local water done well reforms, including the commencement of the delivery of water services by newly established water services council-controlled organisations;

36.5 The expected introduction of legislation to replace the development contributions regime with development levies; and

36.6 The Climate Change Response Amendment Bill introduced recently, which proposes to require local authorities to identify in their regional spatial plans priority locations in which they will be required to prepare adaptation plans.

37 Additionally, there is an expected release of 'draft' national direction to support the transition to the new resource management system. This will provide clearer insight/ direction as the transition occurs whilst also requiring additional engagement from officers.

38 Work continues internally to prepare for the Regional Spatial Plan process which is commencing; whilst additional planning is underway to allow officers to respond to the immediate changes to the current system because of this reform.

39 In summary there is a need to continue to prepare for the current reforms, whilst engaging with the rapid changes that occurring within wider local government; this needs to occur whilst Council maintains current business as usual functions, which are also being altered in preparation for the new system.

Attachments

Nil

7 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

8 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

9 Exclusion of the Public

Recommendation

That the public be excluded from—

- *(a)the whole of the proceedings of this meeting; or
- *(b)the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely,—

10.1 Spatial Plan Process - Direction and Decision Making Framework

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Plain English Reason
10.1 - Spatial Plan Process - Direction and Decision Making Framework	s7(2)(g) - The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege s7(2)(j) - The withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	To protect all communications between a legal adviser and clients from being disclosed without the permission of the client To prevent use of the information for improper gain or advantage

*I also move that [name of person or persons] be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of [specify]. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because [specify]
.

*Delete if inapplicable.

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

- “(4)Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof)—
    - (a)shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
    - (b)shall form part of the minutes of the local authority.”

10 Public Excluded Reports

11 Readmittance of the Public