
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

National environmental standards (NESs) are prepared by central government and can prescribe technical standards, methods (including rules) and/or other requirements for environmental matters throughout the whole country or specific areas. If an activity does not comply with an NES, it is likely to require a resource consent. NESs must be observed and enforced by local authorities. District Plan rules can only be more stringent, or less stringent, than a NES if the NES expressly states a rule can be more or less stringent than it. The following NESs are currently in force:

- Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Freshwater) Regulation 2020
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Commercial Forestry on Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities) Regulations 2016
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Sources of Drinking Water) Regulations 2007
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Air Quality) Regulations 2004 (amended 2011)
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Storing Tyres Outdoors) Regulations 2021