

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance



28 MAR 2024

Tēnā koe

Inviting your views on targeted changes to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

I am writing to you as the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform to inform you about the Government's plans for the resource management system and to invite your input.

On Friday I announced the Government's plan to address resource management reform. In short, we are determined to make it easier to build houses and grow businesses, deliver high quality infrastructure and grow the primary sector, while ensuring the protection of our environment and Treaty settlements.

Our plan is extensive and ambitious, and we are tackling it in three phases. You can read my speech here: <https://tinyurl.com/yjb7hz5h>.

Phase One of our plan was to repeal the Natural and Built Environment Act and Spatial Planning Act, which we delivered before Christmas.

Phase Two started by introducing a new one-stop-shop fast-track consenting regime, which aims to make it easier and faster to build the infrastructure and major projects New Zealand needs to get our country moving.

We will also be making targeted changes to the RMA, in the form of two Bills that will have real impact in the short term.

The first Bill will give effect to some urgent coalition commitments that need to be progressed quickly to give certainty to industry, councils, and resource consent applicants. I expect to introduce the first Bill to Parliament in May 2024.

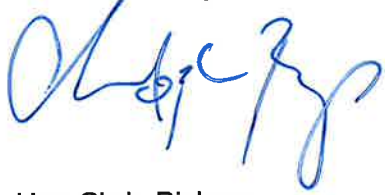
For the second Bill, I am inviting your views on what changes should be included. I will be looking to include changes that are targeted, practicable and in line with the government's stated policy priorities. I expect to introduce the second Bill to Parliament later in 2024.

My focus is on changes that will have real impact in the short term. These will be ahead of Phase Three which involves the long-term solution to replace the RMA. Complex or fundamental changes to the system are unlikely to be progressed this year and will need to be considered as part of our Phase Three work.

If you have any suggestions about what should be included in the second Bill, please send them to rmreform@mfe.govt.nz by 5 April 2024, so that we can continue to progress this important work at pace. All suggestions will be collated by officials at the Ministry for the Environment.

Ongoing engagement will be required throughout the reform programme, particularly with local government, Māori, and key industry groups. I look forward to continuing to work with you as it develops.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bishop', written in a cursive style.

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform