

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE LAND

Tom Corser

Ministry for Primary Industries, Wellington

Email: Thomas.Corser@mpi.govt.nz

Website: www.mpi.govt.nz/HighlyProductiveLand

The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Ministry for the Environment have been developing the proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL).

The Our Land 2018 and Environment Aotearoa 2019 reports, published by the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ, highlighted a number of issues facing our land and soils. The NPS-HPL addresses the urban expansion and fragmentation issues these reports found to be facing our most productive land.

The overall purpose of the proposed NPS-HPL is to improve the way highly-productive land is managed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to:

- recognise the full range of values and benefits associated with its use for primary production;
- maintain its availability for primary production for future generations; and
- protect it from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

Public consultation closed on 10 October 2019 and we received around 250 submissions. This followed meetings held across New Zealand as a part of the roadshow outlining the NPS-HPL and four other proposals from the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development.

Engagement on the NPS-HPL was broadly positive and supportive, and there was general agreement on the intent of the NPS-HPL, the three objectives and the use of a national policy statement to achieve this. However, as expected there were a number of issues were raised during the roadshow and in submissions. The project team is now engaging with key stakeholders to help address these issues and undertake further analysis. We are working towards seeking Cabinet approval by mid-2020, with the NPS coming into force soon after.