



Hon Chris Bishop, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Via email: rmreform@mfe.govt.nz

5 April 2024

Tēnā koe

INPUT TO SECOND RMA AMENDMENT BILL

1. Te Kōhiringa Taumata | New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) thanks Minister Bishop for the invitation to make suggestions about what should be included in the second bill to amend the Resource Management Act (RMA). We appreciate the opportunity to contribute.
2. NZPI represents over 3,300 RMA practitioners who work for local and central government, private clients, infrastructure providers, developers, industry organisations, and other participants in the system. As such, we have a keen understanding of all aspects of the operation of the RMA, and we apply an implementation lens in our feedback.
3. NZPI has played an active role in RMA reform processes to-date. We take a long-term, system-wide approach to reform. We have prepared a position statement on what we think the essential aspects of a planning system for New Zealand are, which we have attached to this letter. While this does not include specific amendments to the RMA, it outlines what any short-term changes should be aiming to achieve for them to be consistent with longer-term aims for RMA reform.
4. We have not had the time to identify specific RMA amendments for inclusion in the second amendment bill. However, we stress the need for any short-term changes to the RMA to be aligned with the aims of longer-term reform. It is inefficient to make 'surgical' changes now, that result in changes in practice and process, that are further changed as a result of future reform. This inefficiency is amplified if the amendments are only in place for 12 to 18 months, until reform legislation is expected to be passed. Participants in the system need certainty of process and outcome, and multiple amendments run the risk of significant uncertainty. Amendments done at pace also have a risk of unintended consequences, which is a risk that needs careful management.
5. Although we are not able to recommend specific RMA amendments now, we are keen to engage with the legislation development process and suggest that we would be an ideal tester or sense checker of the proposed amendments. In addition, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the longer-term reform of the RMA (Phase Three) and how we can contribute to that stage of the process. In the meantime, we will participate in the Select Committee process for both the first and second RMA amendment bills as they progress through the parliamentary process.

Kind Regards

David Curtis

CEO

Te Kōhiringa Taumata, New Zealand Planning Institute

David.Curtis@planning.org.nz

Attached: NZPI Position Statement: A Future Planning System for New Zealand