

Item	Watch Out For	Date
RMA Reform – submissions due	Submissions closing on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and Spatial Planning Bill. The Select Committee is expected to report back to Parliament in May 2023.	5 February 2023
Deadline for fast-track applications	The Fast-Track Consenting Act repeals on 8 July 2023. All referral applications need to be lodged with the Minister by mid-late February to have a chance of being referred to an expert consenting panel.	February 2023
Three Waters reforms	Submissions closing on the Water Services Legislation Bill and Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill. These Bills establish the functions, obligations and powers of water services entities, and provide for consumer protection and the regulation of the price and quality of water infrastructure services. Select Committee Reports on both Bills due May 2023.	12 February 2023
Intensification plan changes	Territorial authorities in Auckland, Waikato, Tauranga, Wellington and Canterbury began notifying Intensification Planning Instruments in late 2022. Hearings under Intensification Streamlined Planning Processes will continue through the year.	Early 2023
National direction for indigenous biodiversity	The National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity is due to come into effect.	Early 2023
National direction for climate change	A National Policy Statement and National Environmental Standard will come into force on industrial heat greenhouse gas emissions (including an immediate ban on new industrial low temperature coal burning activities).	First half of 2023
RMA reform – Bills passed	The Natural and Built Environment Bill and Spatial Planning Bill are proposed to be enacted before the elections.	Mid-2023
Local Government review	The Future for Local Government Panel is to deliver its final report to the Minister of Local Government. The Panel's mandate includes identifying how the local governance system needs to change to improve the wellbeing of communities and the environment, and actively embody Te Tiriti.	June 2023
Three Waters reforms	The Water Services Legislation Bill and Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill are expected to be enacted by October.	October 2023
House rises	The Government's intention is the House will rise on 31 August and Parliament will be dissolved on 8 September.	31 August 2023
General Election		14 October 2023
Preparing the National Planning Framework (NPF)	MfE is currently developing a proposal for the NPF, which will be released after the Natural and Built Environment Bill is enacted. A Board of Inquiry will then conduct a hearing on the NPF.	Notified by the end of 2023 with hearings in 2024
Climate Adaptation Bill	The Climate Adaptation Bill is expected to be introduced by the end of 2023. Guidance on the Bill is expected to be released in March.	End of 2023
Freshwater Planning Processes	Regional Councils are required to notify freshwater plan changes to their regional plans (to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management).	Regional Councils are required to notify plan changes by 31 December 2024

Any questions? Talk to one of our experts



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