

Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill

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Public submissions are now being called for the Natural Environment Bill and the Planning Bill

The closing date for submissions is 4.30pm on Friday, 13 February 2026

The Environment Committee is issuing a joint call for public submissions on two bills:

- **The Planning Bill** (<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2025/0235/12.0/d11196944e2.html#LMS1035806>); and
- **The Natural Environment Bill** (<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2025/0234/latest/d11132416e2.html#LMS1520774>).

The closing date for submissions is **4.30pm on Friday 13 February**.

Submissions cover both bills

The committee acknowledges that the two bills are closely related, and that many submitters will likely wish to comment on both bills. As such, the committee has taken the approach of issuing one joint call for submissions. Submissions made through this portal can discuss one or both bills. You do not need to make a separate submission on each bill. All submissions will automatically be counted against both bills.

Suggestion for structuring submissions

If commenting on both bills, a useful way to structure submissions could be to have “parts” in your submission. For example:

- part 1: canvass high-level views on the policy intent of the overall reform package
- part 2: comments on any shared provisions in the bills
- part 3: comments specific to the Planning Bill (with clause numbers if appropriate) and
- part 4: comments specific to the Natural Environment Bill (with clause numbers if appropriate).

This is a suggestion only. Committee members look forward to receiving public feedback on the bills, regardless of how you choose to structure your submission.

About the bills

Together, the Planning bill and Natural Environment bill would repeal and replace the Resource Management Act 1992, and aim to:

- reduce the number of consents needed by narrowing the type of effects that are regulated;
- make it easier to build homes and infrastructure by enabling the establishment of a clear set of rules under each law to guide councils and decision makers;
- increase consistency between council plans across the country through greater standardisation;
- reduce the number of council plans by providing for 1 plan per region that implements national direction and includes spatial, natural environment, and land-use plans in 1 place;
- safeguard the natural environment and human health by introducing an environmental limits framework covering air, water, land, soils, and indigenous biodiversity, and setting out a regime to manage resource use within these limits;
- make better use of data and technology to enable faster, more consistent planning decisions and make it easier to monitor performance and outcomes

What do you need to know?










- Submissions are publicly released and published to the Parliament website. Only your name or organisation’s name is required on a submission. Please keep your contact details separate, as if they are included in the submission they will become publicly

available when the submission is released.

- If you wish to include information of a private or personal nature in your submission you should discuss this with the clerk of the committee before submitting.
- If you wish to speak to your submission, please state this clearly.
- If you have any accessibility requirements, please contact committee staff and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Further guidance on making a submission can be found from the 'How to make a submission' link in the 'Related documents' panel below. If you have any questions about your submission or the submission process, please contact committee staff using the contact details provided on this page.

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|  Background on RMA Reform
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(https://disclosure.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2025/235) |
|  Background on Natural Environment Bill
(http://legislation.govt.nz/disclosure.aspx?type=bill&subtype=government&year=2025&no=234) |  First Reading debate in Parliament (planning)
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