

## Environmental alert - Government announces its direction on the RMA

Paul Beverley, Patrick Mulligan, Jennifer Caldwell, David Allen, David Randal, Cedric Carranceja, Vanessa Evitt, Mathew Gribben

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Last night the Environment Minister, Hon. Dr Nick Smith, delivered a speech setting out the Government's intentions for advancing the RMA reforms.

Key proposed reforms include:

- Adding management of natural hazards
- Recognising urban planning
- Prioritising housing affordability
- Acknowledging the importance of infrastructure
- Giving greater weight to property rights
- Introducing national planning templates
- Speeding up plan-making
- Encouraging collaborative resolution
- Strengthening national tools
- Encouraging online platforms for simplicity and speed.

The Minister's [press release](#) contains links to the Minister's speech and a paper prepared for Treasury and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on *Impacts of Planning Rules, Regulations, Uncertainty and Delay on Residential Property Development*.

We will continue to keep you updated on the reforms.

### Auckland

PwC Tower  
188 Quay Street  
Auckland 1010

PO Box 1433  
Auckland 1140  
New Zealand

P: +64 9 358 2555  
F: +64 9 358 2055

### Wellington

Aon Centre  
1 Willis Street  
Wellington 6011

PO Box 2694  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

P: +64 4 499 4242  
F: +64 4 499 4141

### Christchurch

83 Victoria Street  
Christchurch 8013

PO Box 322  
Christchurch 8140  
New Zealand

P: +64 3 379 1747  
F: +64 3 379 5659