

Environmental alert - Government announces its direction on the RMA

[Paul Beverley](#), [Jennifer Caldwell](#), [David Allen](#), [David Randal](#), [Cedric Carranceja](#), [Vanessa Evitt](#), [Mathew Gribben](#)

22 January 2015

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

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