

Environmental alert - National Policy Statement on Urban Development

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The Government has today called for public input on a prospective National Policy Statement (NPS) on Urban Development. It is intended that the NPS would provide policy guidance for councils to help ensure that *"regional policy statements and regional and district plans under the RMA provide adequate opportunities to develop land for business and housing"*.

At this stage there are no draft provisions on which to comment. Instead, the Government is seeking high level comments *"to inform the development"* of the NPS, and in particular on the following questions:

- Is your area experiencing high levels of population growth and challenges in planning for this growth?
- How could a NPS and supporting guidance help to address these issues?
- What could a NPS and supporting guidance contain?

Responses and any questions should be addressed to npsurbandevlopment@mfe.govt.nz.

The deadline for comments on this initial phase of the development of the NPS is 4 February 2016. The next stage (signalled for some time in 2016) would be the development of and consultation on a substantive draft NPS.

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