



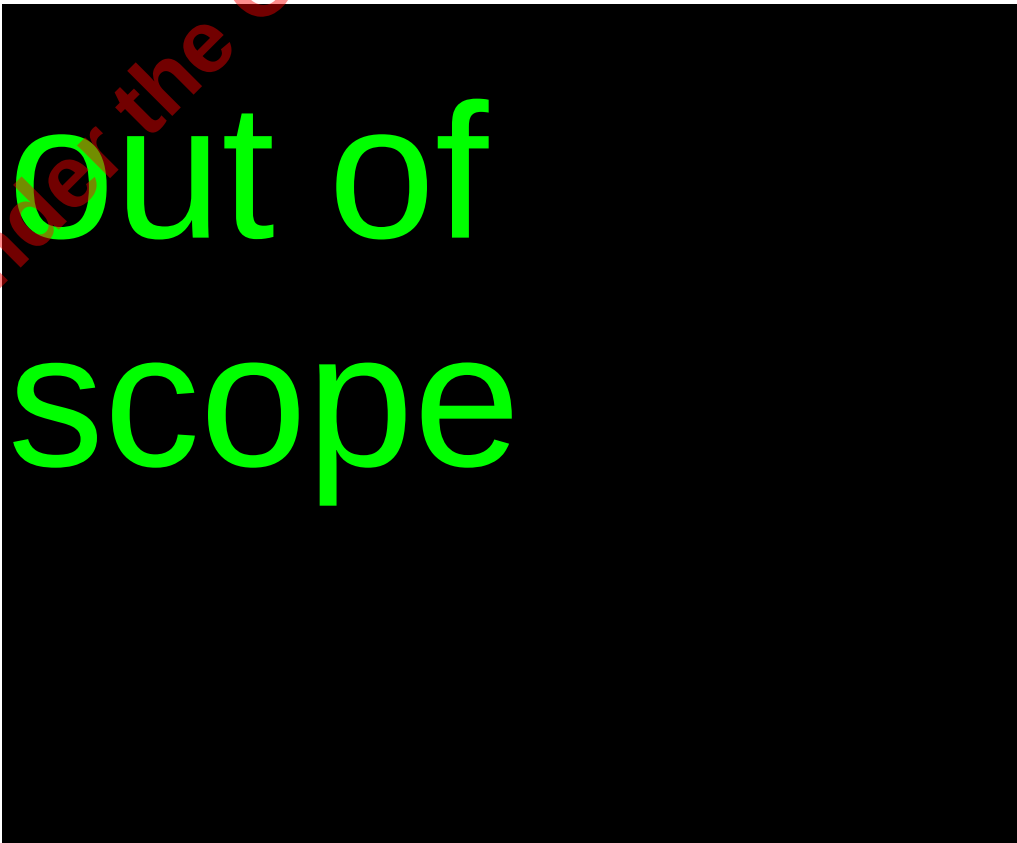
Cabinet Business Committee

Summary

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Conservation Acts (Land Management) Amendment Bill: Further Policy Decisions

Portfolio	Conservation
Purpose	This paper seeks approval of remaining policy decisions relating to the Conservation Acts (Land Management) Amendment Bill (the Bill).
Previous Decisions	In June 2025, Cabinet agreed to modernise the management of conservation land and invited the Minister to report back with further detail, and directed the Minister amend the purpose statement for the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act) [CAB-25-MIN-0213.01].
Proposal	The Bill is intended to modernise the management of conservation land to drive greater economic activity on conservation land where effects can be managed, while protecting nature. Agreement is sought to the remaining policy decisions related to the Bill, including:



- amendments to the purpose statement of the Act to ensure that the National Conservation Policy Statement and area plans can enable greater economic development on conservation land.

out of scope

out of scope

The Minister of Conservation recommends that the Committee:

Background

- 1 note that in June 2025, Cabinet agreed to proposals to modernise conservation land management, and directed the Minister of Conservation to amend the purpose statement for the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act) to ensure that the National Conservation Policy Statement (NCPS) and area plans can enable greater economic development on conservation land [CAB-25-MIN-0213.01];

out of scope

out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

out of scope

Other matters

- 14 note the approach taken by the Minister of Conservation to amend the purpose of the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act) to ensure the NCPS and area plans can enable greater economic development on conservation land, including the following changes:
 - 14.1 amending section 6 of the Act (which sets out DOC's functions) to include sustainable development (to the extent it is not inconsistent with conservation);
 - 14.2 adding new purpose provisions to Parts 3A (management planning) and 3B (concessions) of the Act to state the NCPS and area plans can include policies for the use and development of conservation land;

Drafting of legislation

- 15 invite the Minister of Conservation to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above decisions through the Bill;
- 16 authorise the Minister of Conservation to make decisions consistent with the policy direction outlined above on issues that arise during drafting.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

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Cabinet Business Committee
Minister of Conservation



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

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Conservation Acts (Land Management) Amendment Bill: Further Policy Decisions

Portfolio Conservation

On 22 September 2025, the Cabinet Business Committee:

Background

- 1 **noted** that in June 2025, Cabinet agreed to proposals to modernise conservation land management, and directed the Minister of Conservation to amend the purpose statement for the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act) to ensure that the National Conservation Policy Statement (NCPS) and area plans can enable greater economic development on conservation land [CAB-25-MIN-0213.01];

out of scope

out of scope

Other matters

14

noted the approach taken by the Minister of Conservation to amend the purpose of the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act) to ensure the NCPS and area plans can enable greater economic development on conservation land, including the following changes:

- 14.1 amending section 6 of the Act (which sets out DOC's functions) to include economic development;
- 14.2 adding new purpose provisions to Parts 3A (management planning) and 3B (concessions) of the Act to state the NCPS and area plans can include policies for the use and development of conservation land;

Drafting of legislation

- 15 **invited** the Minister of Conservation to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above decisions through the Bill;
- 16 **authorised** the Minister of Conservation to make decisions consistent with the policy direction outlined above on issues that arise during drafting.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (Chair)
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Business Committee: Period Ended 26 September 2025

On 29 September 2025, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Business Committee for the period ended 26 September 2025:

out of scope

CBC-25-MIN-0049 **Conservation Acts (Land Management)
Amendment Bill: Further Policy Decisions**
Portfolio: Conservation

Separate minute:
CAB-25-MIN-0334.01

out of scope

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet

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Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 24 April 2026

On 28 April 2026, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 24 April 2026:

out of scope

LEG-26-MIN-0066

Conservation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio: Conservation

Separate minute:

CAB-26-MIN-0141

out of scope

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Conservation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio **Conservation**

On 30 April 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee **referred** the paper under LEG-26-SUB-0073 to Cabinet, for further consideration.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon James Meager
Hon Cameron Brewer
Hon Mike Butterick
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Stuart Smith MP
Todd Stephenson MP
Jamie Arbuckle MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG
Department of Conservation officials
Crown Law officials



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Summary

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Conservation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio	Conservation
Purpose	This paper seeks approval to introduce the Conservation Amendment Bill (the Bill), and confirmation of decisions taken by the Minister during drafting.
Previous Decisions	In June and September 2025, Cabinet took policy decisions on the Bill [CAB-25-MIN-0213.01, CAB-25-MIN-0334.01].
Proposal	The Bill will amend the Conservation Act (the Act) to update and streamline the conservation land management framework, and better enable economic activity on conservation land.

Approval is sought for several policy changes made by the Minister during the drafting process, as set out in **Appendix A**. These include:

- progressing only three of four proposed changes to the Act’s purpose clause, s9(2)(h)

out of scope

A number of other policy changes were made during drafting, within the Minister’s previous delegations from Cabinet. These are set out in **Appendix B**.

Impact Analysis	A Supplementary Analysis Report relating to proposed changes to the purpose of the Act is attached as Appendix C .
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out of scope

out of scope

The Minister of Conservation recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **out of scope**
- 2 note that the Bill will streamline the conservation land management framework, better enable appropriate use of conservation land, and support more effective administration of conservation land;
- 3 approve the Conservation Amendment Bill [PCO 28229/16.0] for introduction;
- 4 approve additional proposals for the Bill as set out in the paper and Appendix A under the submission LEG-26-SUB-0066;
- 5 note the policy decisions made during drafting, consistent with Cabinet's earlier delegations, which are set out in Appendix B to the submission under LEG-26-SUB-0066;
- 6 note that no change to the threshold that must be met in concession decisions (relating to the purpose for which the land is held) has been made, s9(2)(h)
- 7 authorise the Parliamentary Counsel Office to continue to make minor and technical changes to the Bill, in line with Cabinet policy decisions, up until the Bill is introduced;

out of scope

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

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Summary

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Conservation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio

Conservation

On 23 April 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee referred this paper to Cabinet for discussion, and on 28 April 2026, Cabinet referred it back to LEG for further discussion. The paper considered by LEG and Cabinet is **attached**.

This paper seeks approval to introduce the Conservation Amendment Bill. The Bill is intended to give effect to a series of June and September 2025 decisions on enabling more economic activity on conservation land [CAB-25-MIN-0213.01, CAB-25-MIN-0334.01].

The Minister of Conservation recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **out of scope**
- 2 note that the Bill will streamline the conservation land management framework, better enable appropriate use of conservation land, and support more effective administration of conservation land;
- 3 approve the Conservation Amendment Bill [PCO 28229/17.0] for introduction;
- 4 approve additional proposals for the Bill as set out in the paper and Appendix A under the submission LEG-26-SUB-0073;
- 5 note the policy decisions made during drafting, consistent with Cabinet's earlier delegations, which are set out in Appendix B to the submission under LEG-26-SUB-0073;
- 6 note that no change to the threshold that must be met in concession decisions (relating to the purpose for which the land is held) has been made, **s9(2)(h)**
- 7 authorise the Parliamentary Counsel Office to continue to make minor and technical changes to the Bill, in line with Cabinet policy decisions, up until the Bill is introduced;

out of scope

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

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Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 1 May 2026

On 4 May 2026, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 1 May 2026:

LEG-26-MIN-0073

**Conservation Amendment Bill: Approval for
Introduction**
Portfolio: Conservation

Separate minute:
CAB-26-MIN-0154

out of scope

out of scope

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Conservation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio Conservation

On 4 May 2026, following reference from the Cabinet Legislation Committee, Cabinet:

- 1 **out of scope**
- 2 **noted** that the Bill will streamline the conservation land management framework, better enable appropriate use of conservation land, and support more effective administration of conservation land;
- 3 **approved** additional proposals for the Bill as set out in the paper and Appendix A under the submission CAB-26-SUB-0154;
- 4 **noted** the policy decisions made during drafting, consistent with Cabinet's earlier delegations, which are set out in Appendix B to the submission under CAB-26-SUB-0154;
- 5 **noted** that no change to the threshold that must be met in concession decisions (relating to the purpose for which the land is held) has been made, **s9(2)(h)**
- 6 **agreed** to amend the purpose-related provisions (amended section 6(e) and new sections 13D, 13H and 14 in the Bill) to recognise the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land and other natural and historic resources managed by the Department, and enable this use and development to the greatest extent practicable under this Act and other enactments;
- 7 **authorised** the Minister of Conservation, with advice from the Parliamentary Counsel Office and Crown Law, to approve the final wording used in the Bill to give effect to the decision in paragraph 6 above;
- 8 **out of scope**
- 9 **authorised** the Parliamentary Counsel Office to continue to make minor and technical changes to the Bill, in line with Cabinet policy decisions, up until the Bill is introduced;

out of scope

out of scope

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Cabinet

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Conservation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio

Conservation

On 23 April 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee referred the paper under LEG-26-SUB-0066 to Cabinet for further discussion. The paper considered by LEG is **attached**.

This paper seeks approval to introduce the Conservation Amendment Bill. The Bill is intended to give effect to a series of June and September 2025 decisions on enabling more economic activity on conservation land [CAB-25-MIN-0213.01, CAB-25-MIN-0334.01].

The Minister of Conservation recommends that Cabinet:

- 1 **out of scope**
- 2 note that the Bill will streamline the conservation land management framework, better enable appropriate use of conservation land, and support more effective administration of conservation land;
- 3 approve the Conservation Amendment Bill [PCO 28229/17.0] for introduction;
- 4 approve additional proposals for the Bill as set out in the paper and Appendix A under the submission CAB-26-SUB-0141;
- 5 note the policy decisions made during drafting, consistent with Cabinet's earlier delegations, which are set out in Appendix B to the submission under CAB-26-SUB-0141;
- 6 note that no change to the threshold that must be met in concession decisions (relating to the purpose for which the land is held) has been made, **s9(2)(h)**
- 7 authorise the Parliamentary Counsel Office to continue to make minor and technical changes to the Bill, in line with Cabinet policy decisions, up until the Bill is introduced;

out of scope

Sam Moffett
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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Conservation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio

Conservation

On 23 April 2026, an earlier version of this paper was considered by LEG, and referred to Cabinet for further discussion. Cabinet referred it back to LEG, and on 30 April LEG again referred it back to Cabinet. The paper, and attached bill, have since been updated to reflect Cabinet discussions and Ministerial decisions.

This paper seeks approval to introduce the Conservation Amendment Bill, which is intended to streamline and promote the economic development of conservation land.

The Minister of Conservation recommends that Cabinet:

- 1 **out of scope**
- 2 note that the Bill will streamline the conservation land management framework, better enable appropriate use of conservation land, and support more effective administration of conservation land;
- 3 approve additional proposals for the Bill as set out in the paper and Appendix A under the submission CAB-26-SUB-0154;
- 4 note the policy decisions made during drafting, consistent with Cabinet's earlier delegations, which are set out in Appendix B to the submission under CAB-26-SUB-0154;
- 5 note that no change to the threshold that must be met in concession decisions (relating to the purpose for which the land is held) has been made, **s9(2)(h)**
- 6 agree to amend the purpose-related provisions (amended section 6(e) and new sections 13D, 13H and 14 in the Bill) to recognise the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land and other natural and historic resources managed by the Department, and enable this use and development to the greatest extent practicable under this Act and other enactments;
- 7 authorise the Minister of Conservation, with advice from the Parliamentary Counsel Office and Crown Law, to approve the final wording used in the Bill to give effect to the decision in paragraph 6 above;

out of scope

out of scope

Sam Moffett
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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