

Conservation law reform

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

July – Sept Oct – Dec

Jan – Mar Apr – June July – Sept Oct – Dec

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Preparing for Conservation Law reform

- Reforming conservation law to improve protection of biodiversity and implement Te Mana o te Taiao - Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020
- Uphold the rights and interests of Māori and the Crown's obligation under Te Tiriti (including Māori rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga)
- Recognise that our social, economic and cultural wellbeing depends on healthy nature and the conservation and protection of indigenous biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems
- Recognise the links between tackling the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis

Process to be determined pending future Cabinet decision

Trade in Endangered Species (TIES)

- Repeal and replace the Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989 to improve the implementation and functioning of the system.
- Strengthening the regulation of elephant ivory at the border, and a regulation-making power which could enable a domestic trade ban. There will be some exemptions.
- Rewriting the Act using modern drafting language.

Introduction of re-written legislation

Select Committee report and enactment

Implementation

Policy advice to Cabinet

Public consultation

Final Cabinet policy decisions

Introduction of amendment legislation

Select Committee report and enactment

Conservation management and processes amendments

- Streamlining targeted statutory process and decision-making requirements to make them more efficient and remove anomalies

Wildlife Act 1953 review

- Address deficiencies in the Act
- Will support future comprehensive conservation legislation reform

Engagement

Engagement

Report back to Cabinet with progress on the review

Engagement

Process to be determined

Stewardship Area reclassification

- Amending the Conservation Act 1987 to clarify and simplify processes for reclassifying stewardship land

Scoping/consultation

Cabinet decisions

Introduction of amendment legislation

Select Committee report and enactment

Hauraki Gulf marine protection

- Revitalising the Gulf: Government action on the Sea Change Plan proposes that 18 protected areas are established through new tools in the Hauraki Gulf in 2024.
- This includes: 11 High Protection Areas to protect habitats and ecosystems while providing for the expression of customary practices by mana whenua; 5 Seafloor Protection Areas to protect the sea floor; and additional protection adjacent to 2 existing marine reserves.

Māori engagement on customary practices in High Protection Areas

Public consultation

Cabinet decisions

Hauraki Gulf marine protection Bill introduced to the House

Select Committee process

New legislation enacted

Marine Protected Areas reform

- Create a more strategic, nationally coordinated framework for marine protection
- Will explicitly recognise Treaty partners' rights and interests in marine protection

Process to be determined

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