

Management planning

The Government is proposing a streamlined planning system to simplify how land is managed and unlock economic activity while safeguarding our conservation assets.

What the land management planning system is

Economic activity on conservation land (which represents nearly a third of New Zealand land) is regulated through management plans and national-level policies.

Why changes are needed

Outdated national direction

- Two general policies currently guide decisions:
 - Conservation General Policy
 - General Policy for National Parks
- Both were created in 2005 and have not had major updates since. They will be replaced by a single, up-to-date national policy to give clearer and more consistent direction.

Overlapping, outdated plans

- 100+ statutory planning documents.
- Around 80% are out of date.
- Many plans overlap, contradict each other, and are hard to interpret. This can create uncertainty and make plans harder to update.

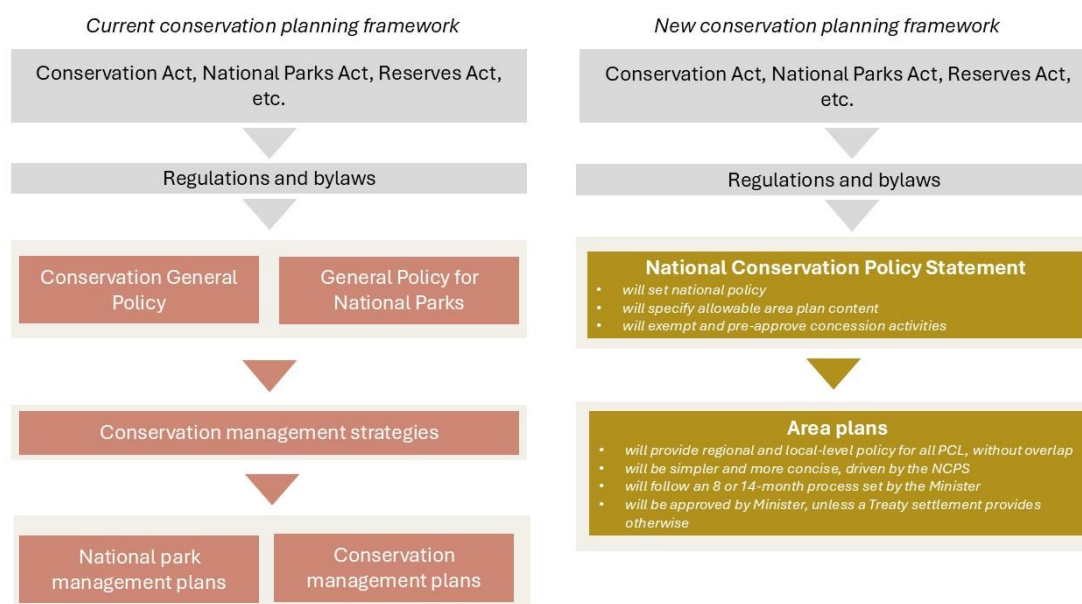
Unclear and unnecessary restrictions

- Some policies restrict economic activity on conservation land without a clear reason.
- It can be unclear what activities can be authorised.

Slow and uncertain decisions

- Decision-makers must check proposals against multiple overlapping documents.
- This slows down decisions even when:
 - Impacts are already well understood
 - Effects are manageable

What the streamlined system will look like



How Māori rights and interests will be provided for

Iwi involved throughout

- Iwi input will be sought early, before draft plans are written, as well as the first draft prior to public consultation, during public notification, and after revision following public consultation.

Treaty commitments upheld

- The Minister must consider an impact analysis report that includes impacts on the rights and interests of Māori.
- Management planning redress in Treaty settlements will be upheld. DOC is currently working with post-settlement governance entities on this.

Checks and balances in the new system

Impact analysis and consultation inputs

- Before approving the NCPS or area plans, the Minister must consider:
 - a summary of public submissions; and
 - the DOC impact analysis report that will include an assessment of the potential impacts of the new/amendments of the NCPS or area plans the rights and interests of Māori; and
 - written comments (if any) provided through the final consultation with key groups which would include comments from iwi authorities.

Independent advice and public input into policies and plans

- The NZ Conservation Authority (NZCA) and conservation boards will play a key advisory role during drafting, public consultation and revisions, and can provide written comments to the Minister.
- The public will have an opportunity to input into any draft NCPS and area plan changes. The Minister must consider a summary of submissions and an impact analysis report before approval.

When plans will be updated

Phased rollout

- New area plans will replace current plans as reviews are completed. However, content in existing plans that is inconsistent with the new NCPS (once created) will no longer have effect.
- Multiple area plans can be developed at the same time.
- Reviews already underway will have to comply with the new requirements and process.
- For plans created under Treaty settlement redress, DOC is working with post-settlement governance entities on how to uphold settlement commitments and incorporate these plans into the new system.