



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land: Release of Discussion Document

Portfolios                      Environment / Agriculture

On 31 July 2019, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

- 1        **noted** that the proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS) is designed to assist local authorities to better manage the impact of competing land uses on the highly productive land resource under the Resource Management Act 1991;
- 2        **noted** that the proposed NPS would provide direction for councils to:
  - 2.1      recognise the full range of values and benefits associated with the use of highly productive land for primary production;
  - 2.2      protect highly productive land from inappropriate subdivision, use and development;
  - 2.3      maintain the availability of highly productive land for primary production for future generations;
- 3        **noted** that a second phase of work focused on broader soil health concerns will commence in 2020;
- 4        **noted** that the Minister for the Environment intends to use the alternative process under section 46A(4) of the Resource Management Act 1991 for undertaking consultation with the public and iwi authorities on the proposed NPS;
- 5        **agreed** to the release of the discussion document *Valuing Highly Productive Land: Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land* (the discussion document), attached to the submission under DEV-19-SUB-0202, for public consultation in August – September 2019;
- 6        **authorised** the Minister for the Environment, in consultation with the Minister of Agriculture, to make minor and editorial amendments to the discussion document before its release;

- 7 **invited** the Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Agriculture to report back to DEV in March 2020, seeking agreement to the final direction instrument that incorporates amendments following the consultation and includes further cost benefit analysis advice.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Jenny Salesa  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon James Shaw  
Hon Eugenie Sage

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister for the Environment  
Minister of Agriculture