



Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land

Submission Template

We would like to hear your views on the proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL).

Please feel free to use this template to prepare your submission. Once complete please email to soils@mpi.govt.nz.

You can also make a submission using the online submission tool. A link to the online submission tool is available at www.mpi.govt.nz/HighlyProductiveLand.

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Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation? Yes [] No [x]

If yes, which organisation are you submitting on behalf of?

[Redacted]

Submissions are public information

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters) may be published on the Ministry for Primary Industries' website, or the Ministry for the Environment's website. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, the ministries will consider that you have agreed to have your submission and your name posted on their websites.



Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982, if requested. Tell us if you do not want some or all of your submission released, stating which part(s) you consider should be withheld and the reason(s) for withholding the information.

Under the Privacy Act 1993, people have access to information held by agencies about them. Any personal information you send with your submission will only be used in relation to matters covered by this document. In your submission, indicate if you prefer that we do not include your name in the published summary of submissions.

Questions for submitters

The questions for submitters that are included throughout the discussion document are provided below. We encourage you to provide comments to support your answers to the questions below. You do not have to answer all questions for your submission to be considered.

The page numbers mentioned below indicate where further information about the question is located in the discussion document.

Section 2.3: Defining highly productive land [page 19]

What are the values and benefits associated with highly productive land?

What are the values and benefits associated with existing food growing hubs and how can these be maximised?

It is essential that highly productive land, such as that in the Pukekohe area, are protected from commercial development. We need to prioritise food production and it is very short sighted to allow this land to either be built on or to be used for animal agriculture, which causes problems with soil compaction from large animals, as well as adding cadmium to the soil and polluting the land and waterways with animal wastes.



Section 3.1: Problem statement [page 23]

Does the RMA framework provide sufficient clarity and direction on how highly productive land should be managed? Why/why not?

Does the RMA framework provide sufficient clarity on how highly productive land should be considered alongside competing uses? Why/why not?

How are values and wider benefits of highly productive land being considered in planning and consenting processes?

Section 3.2: Urban expansion on to highly productive land [page 24]

How is highly productive land currently considered when providing urban expansion? Can you provide examples?

How should highly productive land be considered when planning for future urban expansion?

Highly productive land needs to be protected from being built on or being used for animal agriculture. Urban expansion needs to be upwards and on to land that is not suitable for any type of food production.



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Section 3.3: Fragmentation of highly productive land [page 25]

How is highly productive land currently considered when providing for rural-lifestyle development? Can you provide examples?

How should highly productive land be considered when providing for rural-lifestyle development?

Section 3.4: Reverse sensitivity [page 26]

How should the tensions between primary production activities and potentially incompatible activities best be managed?

How can reverse sensitivity issues at the rural-urban interface best be managed?



Section 3.5: These issues are being seen throughout New Zealand [page 26]

Do you agree that there is a problem? Has it been accurately reflected in this document?

Are you aware of other problems facing highly productive land?

Section 4.5 Preferred option – a National Policy Statement [page 31]

Which option do you think would be the most effective to address the problems identified in Chapter Three? Why?

Are there other pros and cons of a National Policy Statement that should be considered?

Are there other options not identified in this chapter that could be more effective?



Section 5.2 Purpose of the proposed National Policy Statement [page 34]

Should the focus of the National Policy Statement be on versatile soils or highly productive land more broadly? Why/why not?

There needs to be a transition in New Zealand away from animal agriculture, towards horticulture, due to its better use of scarce resources, if we want to be able to feed an increasing world population. This transition needs to be supported at the Government level by re-training schemes for animal farmers, and subsidies for moving into horticulture which is better for our environment and achieves a higher return of the food produced.

Should the focus of the National Policy Statement be on primary production generally or on certain types of food production activities? Why/why not?

Section 5.3 The scope of the proposal [page 35]

Do you support the scope of the proposal to focus on land use planning issues affecting highly productive land? Why/why not?

What matters, if any, should be added to or excluded from the scope of the National Policy Statement? Why?

Should future urban zones and future urban areas be excluded from the scope of the National Policy Statement? What are the potential benefits and costs?



Should the National Policy Statement apply nationally or target areas where the pressures on highly productive land are greater?

Section 5.4 The proposed National Policy Statement [page 37]

What would an ideal outcome be for the management of highly productive land for current and future generations?

Policy 1: Identification of highly productive land [page 41]

If highly productive land is to be identified, how should this be done and by whom?

Are the proposed criteria all relevant and important considerations for identifying highly productive land? Why/why not?

Policy 2: Maintaining highly productive land for primary production [page 42]

What are the pros and cons associated with prioritising highly productive land for primary production?



Alignment with the Urban Growth Agenda [page 43]

Do you think there are potential areas of tension or confusion between this proposed National Policy Statement and other national direction (either proposed or existing)?

How can the proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land and the proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development best work alongside each other to achieve housing objectives and better management of the highly productive land resource?

Policy 3: New urban development on highly productive land [page 45]

How should highly productive land be considered when identifying areas for urban expansion?

Policy 4: Rural subdivision and fragmentation [page 46]

How should the National Policy Statement direct the management of rural subdivision and fragmentation on highly productive land?



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Policy 5: Reverse sensitivity [page 47]

How should the National Policy Statement direct the management of reverse sensitivity effects on and adjacent to highly productive land?

Policies 6 and 7: Consideration of private plan changes and resource consent applications on highly productive land [page 49]

How should the National Policy Statement guide decision-making on private plan changes to rezone highly productive land for urban or rural lifestyle use?

How should the National Policy Statement guide decision-making on resource consent applications for subdivision and urban expansion on highly productive land?

Section 5.6 Implementation [page 52]

What guidance would be useful to support the implementation of the National Policy Statement?



Specific / technical questions

The questions below are included in the outline of the proposed NPS-HPL (Chapter Five of the discussion document) and may assist technical experts when providing a submission.

Specific questions

Section 5.3: The scope of the proposal [page 35]

How should the National Policy Statement best influence plan preparation and decision-making on resource consents and private plan changes?

Should the National Policy Statement include policies that must be inserted into policy statements and plans without going through the Schedule 1 process? What are the potential benefits and risks?

What areas of land, if any, should be excluded from the scope of the proposed National Policy Statement? Why?

Specific questions

Section 5.4: The proposed National Policy Statement [page 37]

What level of direction versus flexibility should the objectives provide to maintain the availability of highly productive land for primary production?



Should the objectives provide more or less guidance on what is “inappropriate subdivision, use and development” on highly productive land? Why/why not?

Specific questions

Policy 1: Identification of highly productive land [page 41]

What are the pros and cons of requiring highly productive land to be spatially identified?

Is the identification of highly productive land best done at the regional or district level? Why?

What are the likely costs and effort involved in identifying highly productive land in your region?

What guidance and technical assistance do you think will be beneficial to help councils identify highly productive land?



Specific questions

Appendix A: Criteria to identify highly productive land [page 41]

Should there be a default definition of highly productive land based on the LUC until councils identify this? Why/why not?

What are the key considerations to consider when identifying highly productive land? What factors should be mandatory or optional to consider?

What are the benefits and risks associated with allowing councils to consider the current and future availability of water when identifying highly productive land? How should this be aligned with Essential Freshwater Programme?

Should there be a tiered approach to identify and protect highly productive land based on the LUC class (e.g. higher levels of protection to LUC 1 and 2 land compared to LUC 3 land)? Why/why not?



Specific questions

Policy 3: New urban development on highly productive land [page 45]

How can this policy best encourage proactive and transparent consideration of highly productive land when identifying areas for new urban development and growth?

How can the proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land best align and complement the requirements of the proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development?

Specific questions

Policy 4: Rural subdivision and fragmentation [page 46]

Should the National Policy Statement provide greater direction on how to manage subdivision on highly productive land (e.g. setting minimum lot size standards for subdivisions)? If so, how can this best be done?

Should the proposed National Policy Statement encourage incentives and mechanisms to increase the productive capacity of highly productive land (e.g. amalgamation of small titles)? Why/why not?

Specific questions



Policy 5: Reverse sensitivity [page 47]

How can the National Policy Statement best manage reverse sensitivity effects within and adjacent to highly productive land?

Specific questions

Policy 6 and Policy 7: Consideration of private plan changes and resource consent applications on highly productive land [page 49]

Should these policies be directly inserted into plans without going through the Schedule 1 process (i.e. as a transitional policy until each council gives effect to the National Policy Statement)? What are the potential benefits and risks?

How can these policies best assist decision-makers consider trade-offs, benefits, costs and alternatives when urban development and subdivision is proposed on highly productive land?

Should the policies extend beyond rural lifestyle subdivision and urban development to large scale rural industries operations on highly productive land? Why/why not?



Specific questions

Section 5.5: Interpretation

Do any of the draft definitions in the National Policy Statement need further clarification? If so, how?

Are there other key terms in the National Policy Statement that should be defined and, if so, how?

Should there be minimum threshold for highly productive land (i.e. as a percentage of site or minimum hectares)? Why/why not?

Specific questions

Section 5.6: Implementation [page 52]

Do you think a planning standard is needed to support the consistent implementation of some proposals in this document?

If yes, what specific provisions do you consider are effectively delivered via a planning standard tool?



Specific questions

Section 5.7: Timeframes [page 52]

What is the most appropriate and workable approach for highly productive land to be identified by council? Should this be sequenced as proposed?

What is an appropriate and workable timeframe to allow councils to identify highly productive land and amend their policy statements and plans to identify that land?

