

Solar energy policy new zealand

Incorporating te ao Māori into our work is valuable to all of Aotearoa. We acknowledge the role of tangata whenua to help create a flourishing environment for every generation.

It provides guidance for local authorities on how renewable electricity generation should be dealt with in Resource Management Act 1991 planning documents. These documents include regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans.

The Government is proposing to strengthen national direction for renewable electricity generation and electricity transmission. This is to provide consistency with Aotearoa New Zealand's emissions reduction targets that support the pace of development required to decarbonise the economy.

The NPS recognises the importance of renewable energy and will help New Zealand achieve the Government's target of 90 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2025.

The NPS promotes a more consistent approach to balancing the competing values associated with the development of New Zealand's renewable energy resources when councils make decisions on resource consent applications. This gives greater certainty to applicants and the wider community.

The NPS applies to renewable electricity generation activities at any scale. It covers the construction, operation and maintenance of structures associated with renewable electricity generation.

Decision-makers on resource consent applications are required to have regard to the provisions of the NPS as a result of s 104(1)(b) of the RMA, regardless of when the application was lodged.

Section 55 of the RMA requires local authorities to amend regional policy statements, proposed regional policy statements, plans, proposed plans and variations to give effect to any provision in a national policy statement that affects those documents.

The RMA requires the necessary amendments to be made as soon as practicable; or within the time specified in the national policy statement (if any); or before the occurrence of an event specified in the national policy statement (if any) (refer section 55(2D)).

The NPS requires regional councils, unless they have already provided for renewable electricity generation activities, to give effect to its provisions by notifying changes to existing or proposed regional policy statements within 24 months of the date on which it takes effect.

For regional and district plans, proposed plans or variations, local authorities are required to give effect to its



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provisions by notifying changes within the following timeframes:

For proposed plans, changes or variations notified before 13 May 2011 the NPS may help the decision-maker determine whether a proposed regional policy statement or plan will achieve the RMA's purpose.

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