Timeline for RMA & Local Government Reforms

Transitional consenting regime in place and all amended RMA provisions apply

RMA may be repealed & transitional consenting regime ended by OIC

4 years

Sep 2026
Bills become law

RMA discharge provisions amended (ss 70(3), 107(2A))

Minister may identify initial national standards

Oct 2026
1 month after Royal assent (**RA**)

Transition period starts

Sep 2027
12 months after RA

First tranche of National Policy Direction and national standards published, including direction on structure and form of regional spatial plans (**RSPs**)

March 2028
18 months after RA

Second tranche of national standards published, relating to human and ecosystem health limits

June 2028
21 months after RA

RSPs notified

Third tranche of national standards published, including plan provisions to support development of land use plans (**LUPs**) and natural environment plans (**NEPs**)

March 2029
9 months after notification of RSPs

Decision on RSPs

Dec 2029
9 months after RSPs decisions

NEPs & LUPs notified

Specified transition date may be set by Order in Council once RSPs decided and LUPs and NEPs notified, ending the transition period

Sep 2030
4 years after RA

RMA repealed (if not repealed earlier) and all remaining Planning and Natural Environment Act provisions commence

Dec 2030
12 months from LUP/NEP notification

Decisions on NEPs and LUPs

2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031

Aug - Sep 2026
"Headstart proposals" (**HSPs**) due and in-principle decisions on HSPs made by Cabinet

Indicative date: Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill to become law

May 2027
Cabinet confirmation of HSPs to be implemented, and policy decisions confirming the "backstop process"

Late 2027 to early 2028
Detailed design of approved HSPs

Early to mid 2028
Indicative date: enactment of legislation implementing approved HSPs and "backstop process"

Oct 2028
Triennial local body elections.

Under the "backstop process" there may not be elections for regional councillors.

Reorganisation for local authorities to whom the "backstop process" applies

July 2026
First tranche of water services council-controlled organisations (**WSCCOs**) begin providing water services

Nov 2026
General election

July 2027
Second tranche of WSSCOs begin providing water services

2027-37 Long-term Plan (**LTP**)

Aug 2027
Councils to review water services bylaws

Oct Nov 2029
General election

June 2030
Indicative date: transition to development levies (from development contributions) to be completed

July 2030
2030-40 LTP

Key

- RMA reforms
- Local Government reforms
- Other key dates

SIMPSON GRIERSON