Timeline for RMA & Local Government Reforms

Transitional consenting regime in place and all RMA provisions as amended apply

RMA repealed by OIC & transitional consenting regime ends

Sep 2026
Bills become law

Sep 2027
12 months after royal assent (**RA**)

First tranche of National Policy Direction and national standards published

March 2028
18 months after RA

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

June 2028
21 months after RA

Regional Spatial Plans (**RSPs**) notified

Third tranche of national direction published, consisting of standardised plan provisions for Land Use Plans (**LUPs**) and National Environment Plans (**NEPs**)

March 2029
9 months after notification of RSPs

Decision on RSPs

Dec 2029
9 months from RSPs decisions

NEPs & LUPs notified

Dec 2030
12 months from notification

Decisions on NEPs and LUPs

4.25+ years

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

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

Nov 2026
General election

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

July 2027
Second tranche of WSSCOs begin providing water services

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

Aug 2027
Councils to review water services bylaws

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

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

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