
National Environmental Standards

National environmental standards are prepared by central government and can prescribe technical standards, methods (including rules) or other requirements for environmental matters throughout the whole country or specific areas. If an activity doesn't comply with an NES, it is likely to require a resource consent. NES(s) must be observed and enforced by local authorities. The following NES(s) are currently in force:

- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 ([amended January 2023](#))¹
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standard on ~~Plantation~~ [Commercial](#)² Forestry) Regulations 2017
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities) Regulations 2016
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Sources of Drinking Water) Regulations 2007
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Air Quality) Regulations 2004 (amended 2011)
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Marine Aquaculture) Regulations 2020
- [Resource Management \(National Environmental Standards for Storing Tyres Outdoors\) Regulations 2021](#)³

An NES prevails over District Plan rules unless expressly stated that it does not.

¹ Sch 1, cl 16 RMA. Overarching Matters and Part 1 s42A report.

² s44A(6) of RMA. Wrap Up Reply Report.

³ Sch 1, cl 16 RMA. (Consequential change from gazettal of NESSTO). Overarching Matters and Part 1 s42A report.
