



Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025

Cindy Kiro, Governor-General

Order in Council

At Wellington this 15th day of December 2025

Present:

Her Excellency the Governor-General in Council

These regulations are made under section 43 of the Resource Management Act 1991—

- (a) on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council; and
- (b) on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment made in accordance with section 44 of that Act.

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Regulations

1 Title

These regulations are the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025.

2 Commencement

These regulations come into force on 15 January 2026.

3 Principal regulations

These regulations amend the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020.

4 Regulation 3 amended (Interpretation)

In regulation 3, insert in its appropriate alphabetical order:

operational need has the meaning given by the National Planning Standards 2019

5 Regulation 45A amended (Discretionary activities)

In regulation 45A(6)(b), after “functional need”, insert “or an operational need”.

6 Regulation 45D amended (Discretionary activities)

In regulation 45D(6)(b), after “functional need”, insert “or an operational need”.

Nicola Purvis,
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These regulations, which come into force on 15 January 2026, amend the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (the **principal regulations**).

The principal regulations provide that a consent authority may grant a resource consent for certain discretionary activities that have the purpose of quarrying activities or extraction of minerals and ancillary activities. Before granting the resource consent, the consent authority must satisfy itself that there is a functional need for the quarrying activities, or the extraction of minerals and ancillary activities, in that location.

These regulations amend the principal regulations so that a consent authority could instead satisfy itself that there is an operational need (instead of, or as well as, a functional need) for the quarrying activities, or the extraction of minerals and ancillary activities, in that location.

Regulatory impact statement

The Ministry for the Environment produced a regulatory impact statement on 18 November 2025 to help inform the decisions taken by the Government relating to the contents of this instrument.

A copy of this regulatory impact statement can be found at—

- <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/national-directions-quarrying-and-mining>
- <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/our-work/regulatory-impact-statements/>

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 18 December 2025.

These regulations are administered by the Ministry for the Environment.