

31 October 2023

Infrastructure New Zealand Submission on NPS Highly Productive Lands

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Infrastructure New Zealand (INZ) welcomes this opportunity to submit on the proposed changes to the NPS Highly Productive Lands (NPS-HPL) to support renewable energy infrastructure.
- 1.2 INZ is New Zealand's membership organisation for the infrastructure sector. We promote best practice in national infrastructure development through research, advocacy, and public and private sector collaboration. Our members come from diverse sectors across New Zealand and include infrastructure service providers, investors, and operators.
- 1.3 While INZ has submitted as the peak infrastructure sector organisation, our members may make their own submissions raising those issues specific to their areas of interest or expertise.

2. Issue 1: Providing for new specified infrastructure

Question 1 **Are you aware of any other issues that could impede the development of new specified infrastructure on HPL?**

- 2.1 No Infrastructure NZ is not aware of any other issues that could impede the development of new specified infrastructure on Highly Productive Land (HPL) at this stage. The provision of a clear consenting pathway is critically important to development of key infrastructure, particularly by those organisations who are not requiring authorities and thus do not have designation powers or where infrastructure is needed to be developed at pace to address urgent community needs and connections.



Question 2. Do you think the NPS-HPL requires an amendment to provide for the construction of new specified infrastructure on HPL?

- 2.2 Yes. Infrastructure NZ considers that an amendment to the NPS-HPL is required to provide clarity to all specified infrastructure developers and assist New Zealand in meeting its zero emission and renewable energy targets.
- 2.3 The current NPS wording does not reflect the original intent of Parliament which was to allow a pathway for the consideration of appropriate development, such as renewable energy generation.
- 2.4 This clarification will now create a consenting pathway for specified infrastructure to be considered by councils on HPL. It will address the current legislative impasse and avoid uncertainty and unnecessary slow or difficult consenting decision-making for all parties concerned.

Question 3. Do you think the proposed amendment to clause 3.9(2)(j)(i) – adding ‘construction’ – will resolve the issues?

- 2.5 Yes. Infrastructure NZ supports the proposed amendment wording (option 2) and considers that the addition of the word “construction” is specific enough to be clear in its intent and address the current exclusion of construction activities. Councils still have the ability to give any specified infrastructure due consideration, including the method of construction’s potential impact on the HPL.

Question 4. Which option do you prefer?

- 2.6 Option 2 is preferred over the option 1 the status quo. This is the simplest method of addressing the current issue. It supports national direction and will enable development of the critical infrastructure that New Zealand requires to meet our international obligations and provide for our communities.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 INZ supports the work that has been undertaken by the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Primary Industries to address this issue in a timely manner following the finalisation of the NPS-HPL.



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3.2 The National Planning Framework development could also look at other potential conflicts and inconsistencies in the various primary and secondary regulatory instruments and address these or provide guidance on how such conflicts are managed.

Yours sincerely,

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