

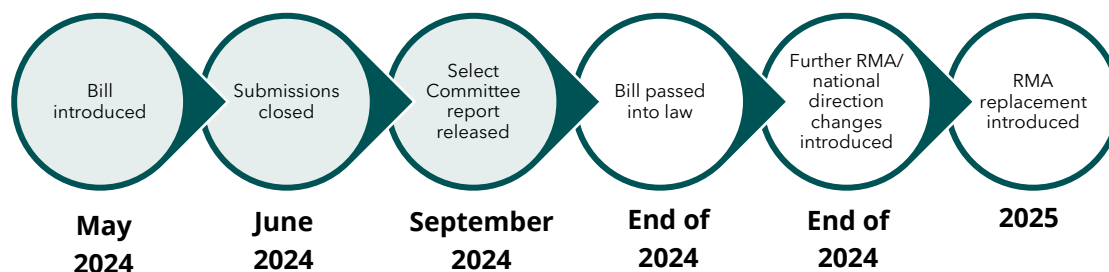
Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill

Central government | October 2024

What is the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill?

The Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill was part of the Government's targeted changes to the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 and other national direction in the first half of 2024. The RMA governs how resource use is balanced with protection for the environment.

The Amendment Bill proposed changes to the public consultation process for preparing national direction instruments. It also proposed changes to resource consenting requirements related to the [Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy of obligations](#), paused implementation of Significant Natural Areas (SNA's) under the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and enabled more mineral extraction activities. It made changes to regulations for stock exclusion and intensive winter grazing.



What was the relevance for horticulture?

While the Amendment Bill did not have any specific changes for fruit and vegetable growers, HortNZ did seek changes to the RMA related to **diffuse discharges** (which affects whether growing needs or can get a resource consent).

The Primary Production Select Committee, after reviewing submissions, decided to amend s107 of the RMA.¹ This provision was subject to a recent court decision which would prevent most farming and growing activities from receiving a discharge consent in degraded catchments. The Select Committee's amendment would allow activities in degraded catchments to still get discharge consents with conditions requiring them to reduce their effects on freshwater aquatic life over time.

¹ [Resource Management \(Freshwater and Other Matters\) Amendment Bill Final Select Committee Report](#)

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [New Zealand Parliament website](#)
- Keep an eye on [HortNZ's website](#)