



The
Aotearoa
Circle

Mā te Kaitiaki
ko te Tonuitanga
Prosperity Through
Guardianship



NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Part 1B: A Policy Map

Key international and domestic agreements, obligations and commitments that embedding, maintaining and enhancing natural infrastructure would support.

Contents

Introduction	3
Why investment in natural infrastructure matters	4
About The Aotearoa Circle	5
What is natural infrastructure?	6
About this report	7
Purpose	8
Structure of the Natural Infrastructure Plan	9
Next steps - the opportunities	10
Part I: Aotearoa New Zealand’s international agreements, obligations and commitments which support the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa would support.	12
Table 1.1: Overview of Aotearoa New Zealand’s Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.	13
Table 1.2: Overview of Aotearoa New Zealand’s international agreements, obligations, and commitments (including Free Trade Agreements) supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure .	16
Part II: Aotearoa New Zealand’s legislation which support the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa	18
Table 2: Overview of existing national legislation supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.	19
Part III: Aotearoa New Zealand’s Government policies, frameworks and plans which support the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa	22
Table 3: Overview of Aotearoa New Zealand Government’s existing policies, frameworks and plans supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.	23
Contact us	24
Appendices: Detailed analysis, Parts I, II & III	25
Appendix A: Aotearoa New Zealand’s international agreements, commitments and obligations supported by the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa	26
Table A: Detailed analysis of Aotearoa New Zealand’s international agreements, obligations and commitments supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.	27
Appendix B: Aotearoa New Zealand’s legislation supported by the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa	41
Table B: Detailed analysis of Aotearoa New Zealand’s existing legislation supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.	42
Appendix C: Aotearoa New Zealand’s Government policies, frameworks and plans which would be supported by the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa	61
Table C: Detailed analysis of Aotearoa New Zealand’s existing policies, frameworks and plans supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.	62
Acknowledgements	74



Introduction

Why investment in natural infrastructure matters

By recognising natural infrastructure as the productive infrastructure that it actually is, we can strengthen our economy, reduce risk, create jobs, and build a future we can proudly say we helped shape.

Aotearoa New Zealand's economy is intrinsically linked to the environment. With 70% of our exports reliant on natural resources, investing in resilience and natural capital is not a trade-off - it is a win-win.

That's why we believe our Natural Infrastructure Plan presents a 1 + 1 = 3 investment: it addresses today's challenges while building capacity for tomorrow.

It also points to the need for a shift in conversation beyond hard engineering solutions that may appear cheaper upfront, but often cost more over time in maintenance, repairs and lost co-benefits.

We understand why infrastructure matters. Roads move goods and services. Pipes deliver water and power. Bridges connect communities and enable commerce.

Natural infrastructure is less visible and therefore less valued. It exists in wetlands, native forests, dunes, rivers and floodplains. It quietly provides flood mitigation, water filtration, erosion control, carbon sequestration and temperature regulation without invoices, contracts or maintenance schedules.

Nature may be the most undervalued infrastructure asset we have. And because we undervalue it, we underinvest in it.

For too long, we have framed economic growth and environmental health as competing interests. This Plan demonstrates that we can - and must - achieve both. By doing so we can capitalise on the multiple benefits that investment in natural infrastructure offers - often with lower, long-term operating costs.

And as the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission Te Waihanga has identified, long-term strategy and planning are essential to guiding infrastructure investment and enhancing national resilience. This Plan adds a powerful tool to our infrastructure toolkit to support this.

Practical Actions

The Natural Infrastructure Plan has been developed through a coalition of 200+ contributors with over

10,000 combined hours of research, debate and collaboration. It reflects deep expertise and shared ambition.

What it is not is a list of aspirations. Instead, it provides practical actions from clear policy levers for government to significant opportunities for business, leadership and investment.

The plan also includes six case studies demonstrating the measurable benefits of incorporating nature-based solutions into infrastructure planning.

It encourages decision-makers to widen the lens through which infrastructure investments are assessed.

The Investment Decision Toolkit, for example, provides a structured way to evaluate natural infrastructure alongside traditional engineered solutions.

Public agencies, private companies and iwi can use these tools to compare options, assess long-term value and capture multiple co-benefits.

When making decisions that will shape infrastructure for decades, the greatest risk is not choosing the wrong option. The greatest risk is failing to consider all available options.

Natural infrastructure is not an environmental add-on. It is a credible, investable infrastructure asset.

By investing in natural infrastructure, we can reduce the risk in insurance, improve returns on investment, and know we will have enduring growth.

The question is no longer whether we can afford to invest in natural infrastructure.

It is whether we can afford not to.



Vicki Watson

Chief Executive
The Aotearoa Circle

About The Aotearoa Circle

The Aotearoa Circle, a unique leadership organisation, convenes public and private sector partners to tackle complex climate and nature challenges that threaten economic growth and future prosperity.

We know that our economy is intrinsically linked to our natural capital, yet it has been declining for decades.

That's why we have a mission and a deadline. If nature loss is not halted and reversed by 2035, Aotearoa New Zealand will reach a tipping point with lasting consequences for our economy, communities and global standing.

Our work considers pressing climate change and nature challenges facing our key sectors - from agriculture, energy and seafood to transport, finance, and tourism. We do this by delivering practical, cross-sector solutions that reduce risk, strengthen resilience, and ultimately aim to restore natural capital.

The Circle is guided by Guardians (our Board) and strengthened by future voices through our Rangatahi Advisory Panel (RAP) who actively participate in major workstreams, including the development of this plan.

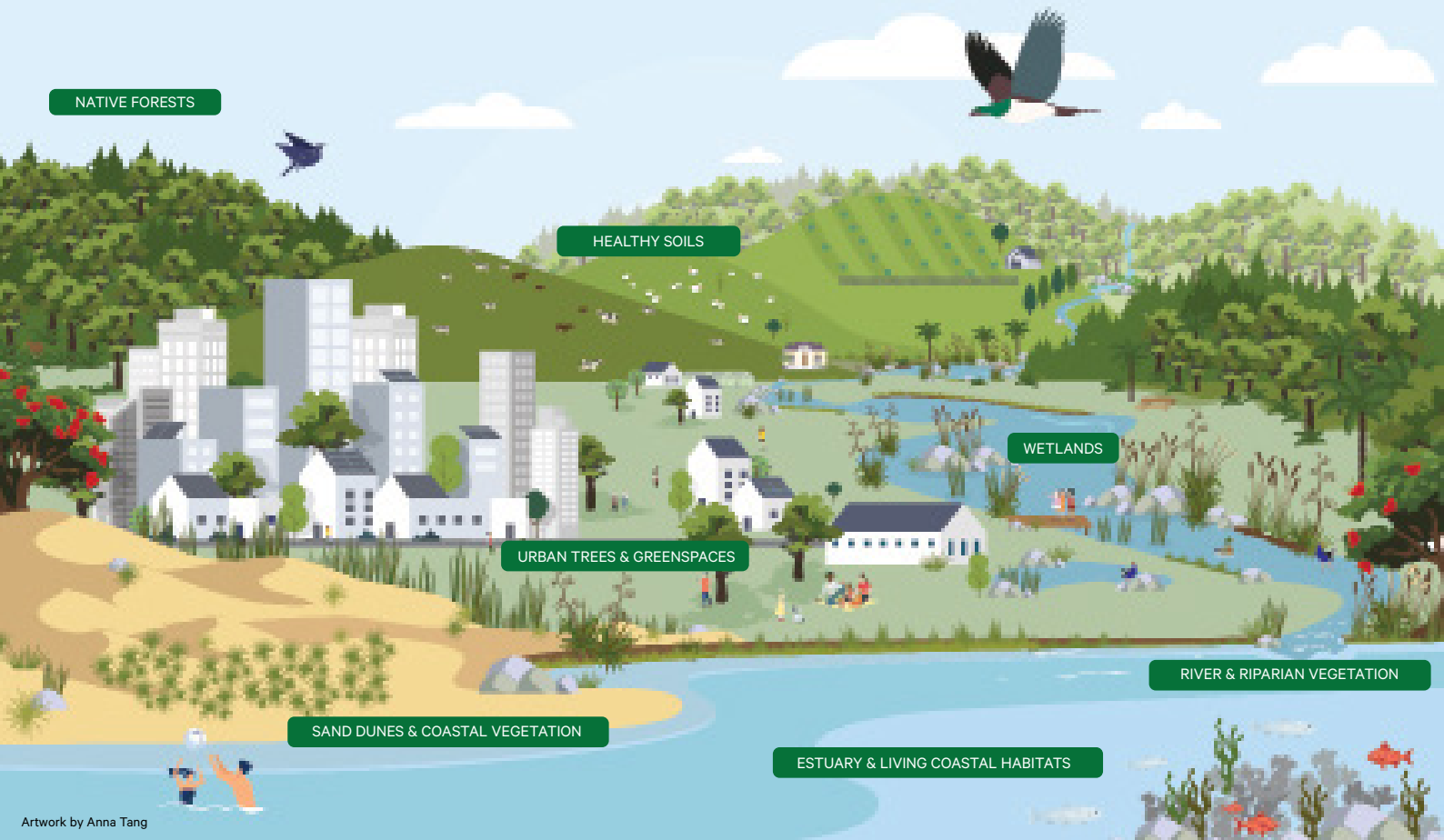
Formed in 2019, our co-founder Sir Rob Fenwick stated at the time that, "Time is running out for the treasures of nature that we love, and it is worth using every last breath, all of our collective energy, to save our land and secure our future."

Sir Rob's vision continues to inspire and guide us each day.







www.theaotearoacircle.nz



What is natural infrastructure?



Artwork by Anna Tang

NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE	SERVICES IT PROVIDES
<p>NATIVE FORESTS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilises slopes and reduces erosion and landslides • Regulates water (slows runoff, sustains baseflows, improves quality) • Habitat for native species; supports cultural values and recreation • Stores carbon over long timeframes; provides local cooling and shade
<p>RIVER & RIPARIAN VEGETATION</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filters sediment, nutrients and some pathogens before they reach waterways • Shades streams, lowering temperatures for aquatic life • Stabilises banks and reduces erosion • Provides habitat corridors for native species and inanga spawning areas
<p>WETLANDS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporarily store floodwaters and buffers stormwater • Retain water and supports drought resilience • Filter nutrients and contaminants, improving water quality • Sequester and stores carbon (notably peat systems) • Provide habitat and mahinga kai values
<p>URBAN TREES & GREENSPACES</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce urban heat and provide shade for people and places • Intercept rainfall and reduce stormwater runoff • Improve air quality and support urban biodiversity and wellbeing
<p>SAND DUNES & COASTAL VEGETATION</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trap and stabilise sand, reducing coastal erosion • Buffer storm surge and waves; enable natural shoreline adjustment • Provide habitat for coastal species and protect communities and assets inland
<p>ESTUARY & LIVING COASTAL HABITATS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attenuate waves and help stabilise shorelines • Filter water, cycle nutrients and improve clarity • Store "blue carbon" in sediments and vegetation • Provide nursery habitat that supports fisheries and biodiversity
<p>HEALTHY SOILS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the foundation for food production by cycling nutrients, retaining moisture and supporting fertile land • Reduce erosion and sediment loss when healthy, protecting waterways and downstream ecosystems • Help buffer flooding by absorbing, storing and slowly releasing water across the landscape • Filter contaminants and improve water quality before water reaches rivers, estuaries and aquifers • Store carbon and support soil biodiversity that underpins ecosystem resilience



About this report

Purpose

The policy maps presented in this report cover international and domestic agreements, obligations, and commitments which are relevant to, supported by, natural infrastructure.

It is envisaged that public sector agencies would utilise this policy map to better understand the opportunities and benefits that investing in natural infrastructure provides Aotearoa New Zealand, specifically when assessing the effectiveness of policies, agreements, and legislation in place.

- 1. Part I** demonstrates how embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure benefits our international **Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements** as well as our other **international obligations and commitment** (notably those contained within key **Free Trade Agreements**).
- 2. Part II** demonstrates how applying natural infrastructure would support our **existing legislation**.
- 3. Part III** outlines the **existing Government policies, frameworks and plans** which would be supported by embedding, maintaining, and enhancing our natural infrastructure.

The content for this report was developed as of 8 December 2025, and The Aotearoa Circle is not intending to update this report. This report has been prepared to support The Aotearoa Circle's national Natural Infrastructure Plan (released 4 March 2026).

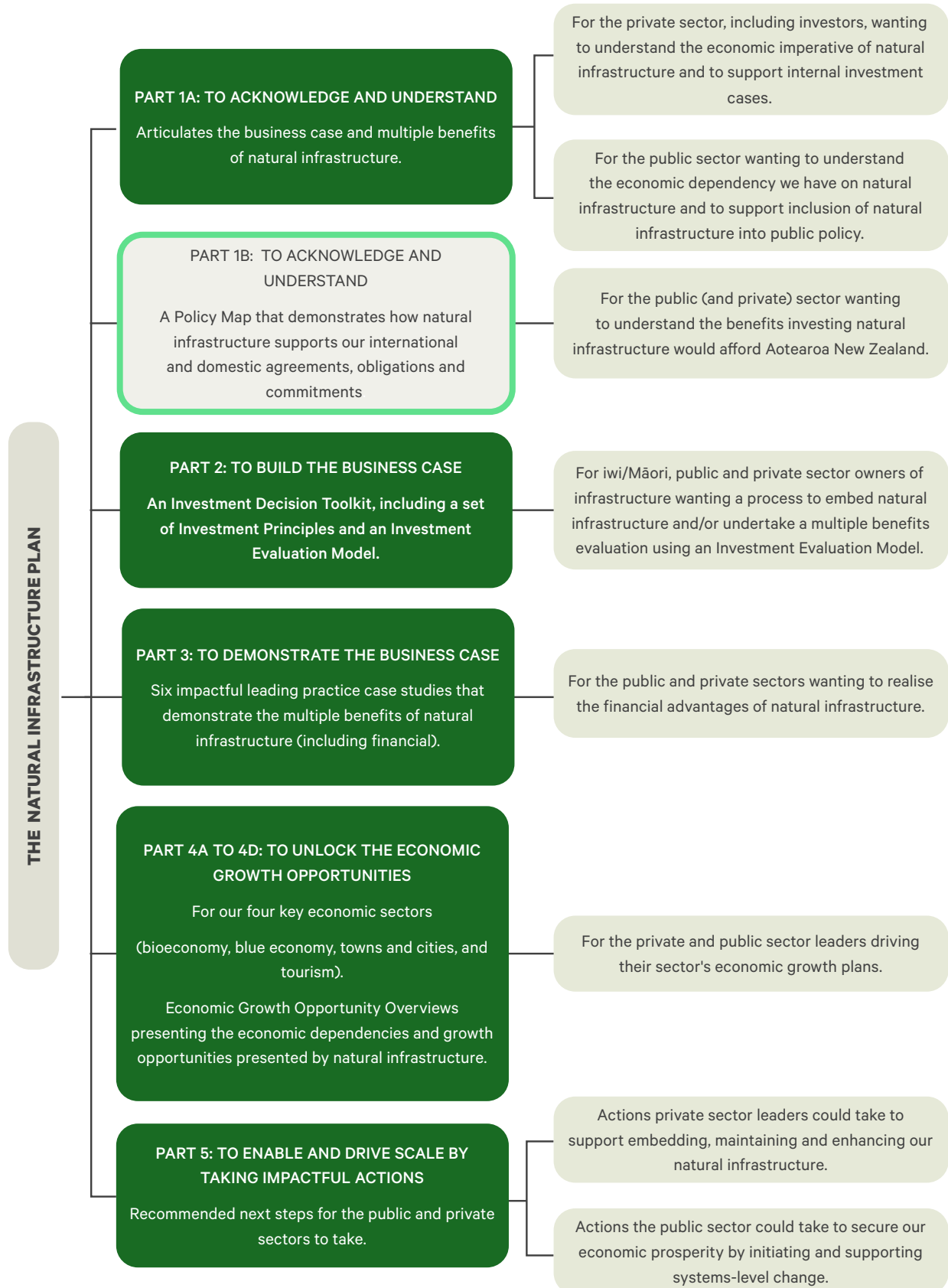
This report does not provide commentary on Aotearoa New Zealand's performance against international agreements, obligations, and commitments. Nor does it provide commentary as to the efficiency, reliability or effectiveness of actions to comply with existing domestic legislation, policies, frameworks and plans.



Structure of the Natural Infrastructure Plan

The Natural Infrastructure Plan comprises several sections framed against the five objectives. Each has a specific purpose and intended audience.

Note: Parts 1B, 2, 3 and 4A-4D are available as separate PDFs to download



Next steps - the opportunities

This report provides an opportunity for public sector agencies to review the intersection of natural infrastructure with our domestic legislative environment (included in our domestic legislation, policies frameworks and plans) as whilst they are collectively intended to reduce harm, the net value of our natural infrastructure continues to decline.

To embed, maintain and enhance our natural infrastructure and achieve the ambition of the Natural Infrastructure Plan, system-level changes (including domestic legislation, policies, frameworks and plans) are required.

There are three key opportunities presented to public sector agencies in relation to natural infrastructure and our international and domestic agreements, obligations and commitments:

- **Policies which are effective at reducing the impact:** There is an opportunity to review the effectiveness of our domestic legislation, policies, frameworks and plans, to mitigate and reduce the negative impact activities are having on natural infrastructure. Further, when legislation is reviewed, taking the opportunity to integrate an enabling environment which supports embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.

- **Policies which consider economic dependencies:**

There is an opportunity to consider the economic dependency we have on natural infrastructure when reviewing, revising, and/or replacing our agreements, obligations and commitments.

- **The new planning and environmental system:**

There is an opportunity for the public sector to consider the domestic and international commitments and obligations as part of the new planning and environmental system, and to incorporate changes to our stocks and flows of natural infrastructure as a natural hazard.

Further detail on the system-level changes, and other recommendations, are contained within the main Natural Infrastructure Plan.



Part 1:

Aotearoa New Zealand's international agreements, obligations and commitments which support the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa would support

Part I: Aotearoa New Zealand’s international agreements, obligations and commitments which support the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa would support.

Table 1.1 provides an **overview** of Aotearoa New Zealand **Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)** that would be supported by mainstreaming the use of, and investment in, natural infrastructure. These MEAs exclusively focus on environmental protection, setting binding obligations for issues like climate change, biodiversity and pollution control.

Table 1.2 provides an **overview** of Aotearoa New Zealand’s **international obligations and commitments** that would be supported by mainstreaming the use of, and investment in, natural infrastructure. The primary goal of **free trade agreements** is economic cooperation and market access. Environmental provisions within these agreements act as both a lever for advancing natural infrastructure and are a safety net to prevent environmental backsliding.

These tables relate to MEAs and international obligations and commitments as of **8 December 2025** and does not include (for example) treaties that are subject to ongoing negotiations, or which Aotearoa New Zealand has signed but not yet ratified.

Mainstreaming use of, and investment in natural infrastructure, could help prevent threats and accelerate the opportunities, which in turn would support Aotearoa New Zealand to meet its existing international commitments as specified in the table.

The specific commitments that would be supported by development of natural infrastructure are shown in italics. Several treaties appear under multiple categories.

Tables 1.1 and 1.2 align with the **eight key natural infrastructure threats** and opportunities used throughout the Natural Infrastructure Plan, and as provided in the [Investment Decision Toolkit](#) and [the Case Studies](#).

Table A (Appendix A) provides **detailed analysis** of Aotearoa New Zealand’s international agreements, obligations and commitments that would be supported by mainstreaming the use of, and investment in, natural infrastructure.

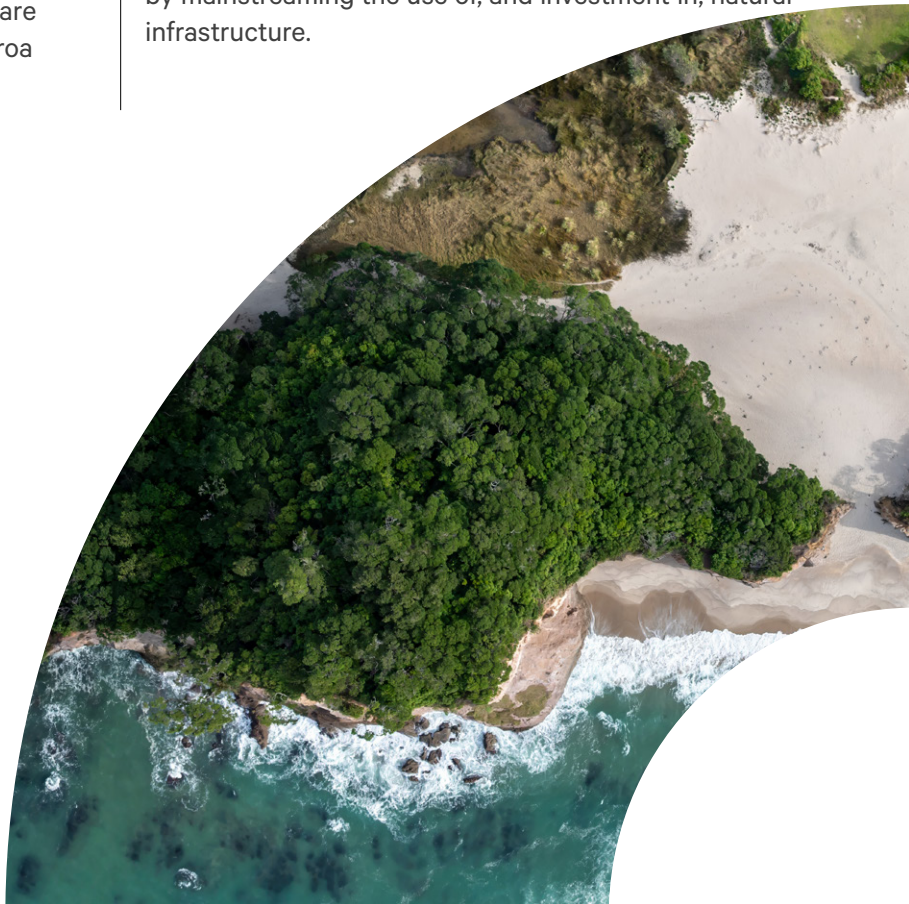


Table 1.1: Overview of Aotearoa New Zealand’s Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.

FINANCIAL	RISK & RESILIENCE		ENVIRONMENTAL			SOCIAL	CULTURAL
Financial opportunities through reduced costs and improved asset values	Disruptions to a systemically important supply chain (major trade, food security or mahinga kai)	Disruptions to, or failure of, critical infrastructure	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse (incl pest or disease incursion)	“Severe weather events (e.g. flooding & wildfire) “	“Natural resource shortages (e.g. caused by drought)”	Changes in social and recreational amenity	Changes in cultural amenity
			Nouméa Convention, 1986 (environmental protection in the Pacific, including general anti-pollution and dumping measures).	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement (emissions reduction supporting global temperature stabilisation and global goal on adaptation).	Various treaties relating to Pacific fisheries and oceans management, including Regional Fisheries Management Conventions such as the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) (fisheries management and conservation).	Convention for the Protection for the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (maintaining cultural and natural sites of New Zealand).	Nouméa Convention 1986 (obligations to support indigenous traditions and cultures).
			UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (protection and preservation of the marine environment).		International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (biodiversity protection of plant and plant products).		Convention for the Protection for the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (maintaining cultural and natural sites of New Zealand).
			Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) (obligation to protect/conservate listed wetlands and promote the wise use of all others).		International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (biodiversity protection of plant and plant products).		
			UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including the Kunming - Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) (biodiversity protection) (biodiversity protection).				
			Various treaties relating to Pacific fisheries and oceans management, including Regional Fisheries Management Conventions such as the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) (conservation and optimum utilisation of living marine resources, in particular highly migratory fish stocks).				

FINANCIAL	RISK & RESILIENCE		ENVIRONMENTAL			SOCIAL	CULTURAL
Financial opportunities through reduced costs and improved asset values	Disruptions to a systemically important supply chain (major trade, food security or mahinga kai)	Disruptions to, or failure of, critical infrastructure	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse (incl pest or disease incursion)	“Severe weather events (e.g. flooding & wildfire)“	“Natural resource shortages (e.g. caused by drought)“	Changes in social and recreational amenity	Changes in cultural amenity
			International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (biodiversity protection of plant and plant products).				
			Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (biodiversity protection of plants and animals).				
			Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) or Bonn Convention (biodiversity protection and habitat restoration).				

Table 1.2: Overview of Aotearoa New Zealand’s international agreements, obligations, and commitments by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure¹.

FINANCIAL	RISK & RESILIENCE		ENVIRONMENTAL			SOCIAL	CULTURAL
Financial opportunities through reduced costs and improved asset values	Disruptions to a systemically important supply chain (major trade, food security or mahinga kai)	Disruptions to, or failure of, critical infrastructure	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse (incl pest or disease incursion)	“Severe weather events (e.g. flooding & wildfire) “	“Natural resource shortages (e.g. caused by drought)”	Changes in social and recreational amenity	Changes in cultural amenity
All trade agreements (ongoing supply of exports depends on natural infrastructure and as such economic prosperity depends on natural infrastructure).	All trade agreements (ongoing supply of exports depends on natural infrastructure and as such economic prosperity depends on natural infrastructure).						
Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (commitments to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of fisheries).	Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (commitments to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of fisheries).		Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (commitments to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of fisheries).		Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (commitments to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of fisheries).	Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (commitments to maintaining the knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities that contribute to biodiversity conservation).	Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (commitments to maintaining the knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities that contribute to biodiversity conservation).
European Union-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA) (cooperation toward sustainable food systems).	European Union-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA) (cooperation toward sustainable food systems).	2+2 Agreement between Australia and New Zealand (energy efficiency, economic opportunities for a net zero transition, pacific partnership).	European Union-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA) (trade and biological diversity).	European Union-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA) (obligations to uphold Paris Agreement and UNFCCC).			
Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK-NZ FTA) (environmental commitments relating to sustainable fisheries, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable agriculture).	Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK-NZ FTA) (environmental commitments relating to sustainable fisheries, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable agriculture).			Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK-NZ FTA) (commitment to cooperate to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement).			Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK-NZ FTA) (The Environment Chapter was the first to acknowledge Māori perspectives on the environment with reference to mauri and kaikiakitanga).
2+2 Agreement between Australia and New Zealand (energy efficiency, economic opportunities for a net zero transition, pacific partnership).	2+2 Agreement between Australia and New Zealand (energy efficiency, economic opportunities for a net zero transition, pacific partnership).						

¹ Including intergovernmental dialogues and political commitments. | Natural Infrastructure Plan Policy Map



Part II:

Aotearoa New Zealand's legislation which support the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa

Part II: Aotearoa New Zealand's legislation which support the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa

Table 2 provides an **overview** of Aotearoa New Zealand's **existing national legislation** that would be supported by mainstreaming the use of, and investment in, natural infrastructure.

This relates to legislation as of **8 December 2025** and does not include changes to key legislation such as the Resource Management Act, 1991.

Where amendment legislation is proposed or anticipated this is indicated with an *.

Mainstreaming use of, and investment in natural infrastructure, would help prevent the threats and accelerate the opportunities, which in turn would support Aotearoa New Zealand to meet its existing legislative commitments as specified in the table.

Table 2 aligns with the **eight key natural infrastructure threats** and opportunities used throughout the Natural Infrastructure Plan, and as provided in the Investment Decision Toolkit and the Case Studies.

Table B (see [Appendix B](#)) provides **detailed analysis** of Aotearoa New Zealand's existing legislation that would be supported by mainstreaming the use of, and investment in, natural infrastructure.



Table 2: Overview of existing national legislation supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.

FINANCIAL	RISK & RESILIENCE		ENVIRONMENTAL			SOCIAL	CULTURAL
Financial opportunities through reduced costs and improved asset values	Disruptions to a systemically important supply chain (major trade, food security or mahinga kai)	Disruptions to, or failure of, critical infrastructure	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse (incl pest or disease incursion)	“Severe weather events (e.g. flooding & wildfire) “	“Natural resource shortages (e.g. caused by drought)”	Changes in social and recreational amenity	Changes in cultural amenity
<p>Resource Management Act 1991¹ (RMA) and its subordinate documents including the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS UD).</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE, Regional/District Councils)</p>	<p>RMA*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE, Regional/District Councils)</p>	<p>RMA*.</p> <p>and its subordinate documents including the NPS UD</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE, Regional/District Councils)</p>	<p>RMA*.</p> <p>and its subordinate documents including the National Policy Statements on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS IB) and Freshwater Management (NPS FM) and National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 (NES FW).</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE, Regional/District Councils)</p>	<p>Local Government Act 2002*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DIA; Regional/District Councils)</p>	<p>RMA*,</p> <p>and its subordinate documents including the NPS FM, NES FW, National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NES-AQ), National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF), National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water (NES-DW), National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NES-CS), National Environmental Standards for Aquaculture (NES-MA)</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE, Regional/District Councils)</p>	<p>RMA*.</p> <p>and its subordinate documents including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS), NPS FM and NPS-UD</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE, Regional/District Councils, DoC (NZCPS))</p>	<p>Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MCH; Manatū Taonga)</p>
<p>Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act 2020*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: Treasury)</p>	<p>Fisheries Act 1996.</p> <p>(Responsibility: Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI))</p>	<p>Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025,</p> <p>(Responsibility: DIA)</p>	<p>Conservation Act 1987.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DoC)</p>	<p>RMA* and its subordinate documents including the NPS FM and NES FW.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE, Regional/District Councils)</p>	<p>Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.</p>	<p>Local Government Act 2002*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DIA)</p>	<p>RMA* and its subordinate documents including the NZCPS and NPS FM.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE, Regional/District Councils, DoC)</p>
<p>Climate Change Response Act 2002.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE; EPA)</p>	<p>Māori Fisheries Act 2004.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MPI)</p>	<p>Infrastructure-specific legislation (e.g. Electricity Act 1992, Gas Act 1992, Telecommunications Act 2001*).</p> <p>(Responsibility: MBIE)</p>	<p>Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DoC)</p>	<p>Climate Change Response Act 2002.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE; EPA)</p>	<p>Fisheries Act 1996, including the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MPI; OIO)</p>	<p>Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DoC)</p>	<p>Te Urewera Act, 2014.</p> <p>(Responsibility: Te Urewera Act Board)</p>
<p>Fast Track Approvals Act, 2024*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MfE; EPA)</p>	<p>Biosecurity Act 1993.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MPI)</p>	<p>Building Act 2004.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MBIE; District Councils)</p>	<p>National Parks Act 1980.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DoC)</p>	<p>Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: NEMA)</p>	<p>Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DIA)</p>	<p>Conservation Act 1987*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DoC)</p>	<p>Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti)</p>
<p>Local Government Act 2002*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DIA; Regional/District Councils)</p>	<p>Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.</p> <p>(Responsibility: NEMA)</p>	<p>Local Government Act 2002*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DIA; Regional/District Councils)</p>	<p>Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Act 2025</p> <p>(Responsibility: DoC)</p>	<p>Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023</p> <p>(Responsibility: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC))</p>	<p>Crown Minerals Act 1991.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MBIE)</p>	<p>Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Act 2019*.</p> <p>(Responsibility: MHUD)</p>	<p>Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>(Responsibility: DoC)</p>

1 Where amendment legislation is proposed or anticipated this is indicated with an *.

FINANCIAL	RISK & RESILIENCE		ENVIRONMENTAL			SOCIAL	CULTURAL
Financial opportunities through reduced costs and improved asset values	Disruptions to a systemically important supply chain (major trade, food security or mahinga kai)	Disruptions to, or failure of, critical infrastructure	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse (incl pest or disease incursion)	“Severe weather events (e.g. flooding & wildfire) “	“Natural resource shortages (e.g. caused by drought)”	Changes in social and recreational amenity	Changes in cultural amenity
Building Act 2004. (Responsibility: MBIE)	Conservation Act 1987. (Responsibility: DoC)	Public Works Act 1981*. (Responsibility: LINZ; MPI)	Wild Animal Control Act 1977. (Responsibility: DoC)	Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, and the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order 2015. (Responsibility: NEMA)	Water Services Act 2021. (Responsibility: DIA)	Social Security Act 2018, including the Social Security Regulations 2018 made under the Act. (Responsibility: MSD)	Local Government Act 2002*. (Responsibility: DIA)
Land Transport Management Act 2003*. (Responsibility: MOT)	Reserves Act 1977. (Responsibility: DoC)	New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihanga Act 2019*. (Responsibility: Treasury)	Marine Reserves Act 1971. (Responsibility: DoC)	Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017. (Responsibility: DIA)	Fisheries Act 1996. (Responsibility: MPI)		Wildlife Act 1953. (Responsibility: DoC)
Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts	Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act, 2012. (Responsibility: EPA)	Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017. (Responsibility: DIA)	Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011. (Responsibility: OTS)	Social Security Act 2018, including the Social Security Regulations 2018 made under the Act. (Responsibility: MSD)			Conservation Act 1987* (Responsibility: DoC)
		Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. (Responsibility: MfE)	Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978. (Responsibility: DoC)	Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. (Responsibility: MfE)			Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts
			Te Urewera Act, 2014. (Responsibility: Te Urewera Act Board)				
			Biosecurity Act 1993. (Responsibility: MPI)				
			Wildlife Act 1953. (Responsibility: DoC)				



Part III:

Aotearoa New Zealand's Government policies, frameworks and plans which support the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa

Part III: Aotearoa New Zealand's Government policies, frameworks and plans which support the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa

Table 3 provides an **overview** of Aotearoa New Zealand's **Government policies, frameworks and plans** that would be supported by mainstreaming the use of, and investment in, natural infrastructure.

Where policies have been referred to in [Table 2](#) or [Table B](#), it has not been repeated in Table 3.

This relates to policies, frameworks and plans as of **8 December 2025**.

Where amendments are proposed or anticipated this is indicated with an *.

Mainstreaming use of, and investment in natural infrastructure, would help prevent the threats and accelerate the opportunities, which in turn would support Aotearoa New Zealand to meet its existing legislative commitments as specified in the table.

Table 3 aligns with the **eight key natural infrastructure threats** and opportunities used throughout the Natural Infrastructure Plan, and as provided in the Investment Decision Toolkit and the Case Studies.

Table C (see [Appendix C](#)) provides detailed analysis of Government policies, frameworks and plans that would be supported by mainstreaming the use of, and investment in, natural infrastructure.



Table 3: Overview of Aotearoa New Zealand Government’s existing policies, frameworks and plans supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.

FINANCIAL	RISK & RESILIENCE		ENVIRONMENTAL			SOCIAL	CULTURAL
Financial opportunities through reduced costs and improved asset values	Disruptions to a systemically important supply chain (major trade, food security or mahinga kai)	Disruptions to, or failure of, critical infrastructure	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse (incl pest or disease incursion)	“Severe weather events (e.g. flooding & wildfire) “	“Natural resource shortages (e.g. caused by drought)”	Changes in social and recreational amenity	Changes in cultural amenity
Budget Policy Statement 2025. (Responsibility: Treasury)	Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development (GPS-HUD). (Responsibility: New Zealand Government and HUD)	Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024. (Responsibility: MOT)	Conservation General Policy. (Responsibility: DoC)	New Zealand’s Second Emissions Reduction Plan 2026-30. (Responsibility: MfE)	Climate Change Strategy 2024. (Responsibility: MfE)	Conservation Management Strategies (Responsibility: DoC)	Going for Growth with Māori*. (Responsibility: Te Puni Kōkiri – Kāinga (Ministry for Māori Development))
Going for Growth Policy. (Responsibility: MBIE)	National Infrastructure Plan. (Responsibility: New Zealand Infrastructure Commission)	Climate Change Strategy 2024. (Responsibility: MfE0)	Biodiversity Credits Market. (Responsibility: MfE)	National Adaptation Framework. (Responsibility: MfE)	Government Target 9 Reduced net greenhouse gas emissions. (Responsibility: MfE)	Heritage and Visitor Strategy 2021. (Responsibility: DoC)	Conservation General Policy. (Responsibility: DoC)
National Infrastructure Plan. (Responsibility: New Zealand Infrastructure Commission)	Climate Change Strategy 2024. (Responsibility: MfE)	National Infrastructure Plan. (Responsibility: Infrastructure Commission)	Marine Protected Areas Policy and Implementation Plan. (Responsibility: DoC)	Building New Zealand’s Long-term Resilience to Hazards 2025. (Responsibility: DPMC; MfE)	National Adaptation Plan 2022. (Responsibility: MfE)	General Policy for National Parks. (Responsibility: DoC)	Heritage and Visitor Strategy 2021. (Responsibility: DoC)
Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS-LT)	Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS-LT)	National Risk and Resilience Framework. (Responsibility: DPMC)	Te Mana o te Taiao - Biodiversity Strategy. (Responsibility: DoC)	Climate Change Strategy 2024. (Responsibility: MfE)	National Risk and Resilience Framework. (Responsibility: DPMC)	Conservation General Policy. (Responsibility: DoC)	
		Resilience Strategy for Natural Hazard Risk Reduction 2024 to 2029. (Responsibility: Natural Hazards Commission)	General Policy for National Parks. (Responsibility: DoC)				

Contact us

This report forms a key part of a wider national Natural Infrastructure Plan.

For questions or additional information on the national Natural Infrastructure Plan please reach out to The Aotearoa Circle.

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Appendices: Detailed analysis, Parts I, II & III

Appendix A: Aotearoa New Zealand's international agreements, commitments and obligations supported by the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa

Table A: Detailed analysis of Aotearoa New Zealand’s international agreements, obligations and commitments supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements			
Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972	<p>The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage aim is to promote cooperation between states to protect their natural and cultural heritage to a universal value for future generations.</p> <p>As a party to this Convention, Aotearoa New Zealand has a duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of its cultural and natural heritage (Article 4), to take effective and active measures in so far as possible to do this (Article 5) and to report regularly to the World Heritage Committee (Article 29).</p> <p>In Aotearoa New Zealand, there are three defined Heritage Sites: Te Waipounamu – South-West Aotearoa New Zealand, Tongariro National part and Subantarctic Islands of Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitments under this Convention, specifically its obligations to maintaining cultural and natural heritage of Aotearoa New Zealand at the defined Heritage Sites would be supported by natural infrastructure which would contribute to preserving the natural environment and maintaining cultural amenity over time.</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force: 22/02/1985</p>	<p>DoC lead agency and works closely with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</p>	<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international treaty adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro. Its three main objectives are to conserve biological diversity, ensure sustainable use of its components, and promote fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources.</p> <p>As a party to the CBD, Aotearoa New Zealand must develop a national strategy for conservation and sustainable use (Article 6), integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into plans, programmes or policies (Article 6), identify and monitor components of biological diversity (Article 7), and other specific obligations relating to in-situ (Article 8) and ex-situ (Article 9) conservation.</p> <p>The Kunming - Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted at the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP15) in Montreal, Canada. It replaces the CBD's previous targets for 2020.</p> <p>The GBF aims to spur urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery by 2030.</p> <p>The GBF sets out four overarching goals for 2050:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and restoration of ecosystems, threatened species, and genetic diversity • Prospering with nature such that biodiversity is sustainably used and managed, and nature's contributions to people are valued • Sharing benefits fairly • Investment and collaboration such that all parties, particularly developing countries have the resources to implement the framework. <p>These goals are supported by 23 action-oriented global targets for 2030. These broadly fall into three key categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing threats to biodiversity • Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing • Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming. <p>This is not a legally binding agreement (i.e. it is not a treaty), however it is a political commitment under the CBD.</p> <p>COP Decision 15/6, adopted alongside the GBF, commits countries to adopting mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force: 29/12/1993</p>	<p>DoC strategy and implementation lead.</p> <p>MFAT leads NZ's engagement in global biodiversity discussions.</p> <p>MfE ensures central government policy aligns with national biodiversity obligations.</p> <p>Te Puni Kōkiri leads the CBD Article 8(j) work programme.</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
	<p>Notably, this commits Aotearoa New Zealand to updating its biodiversity strategy and setting national targets. To meet these commitments, in October 2024, the Aotearoa New Zealand Government submitted 13 national targets to the CBD.</p> <p>The Department of Conservation (DoC) has also released a discussion document on the implementation plan for New Zealand’s 2025-2030 Biodiversity Strategy, which states that this strategy will reflect the GBF (including the national targets) as well as the CBD more broadly.</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s obligations and commitments under the CBD, GBF, and COP Decision 15/6 would be strongly supported by natural infrastructure which helps prevent biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse. This is particularly true in relation to the obligations to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into plans, programmes, and policies.</p>		
<p>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) 1975</p>	<p>The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement which is a response to concerns with over-exploitation of wildlife through international trade and contributes to the rapid decline of certain species of animals and plants.</p> <p>The aim of CITES is to ensure the long-term survival of species.</p> <p>As a party, Aotearoa New Zealand has committed to prohibit or limit trade in certain identified endangered species.</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s obligations under CITES, specifically its commitments to reducing the number of species subject to endangerment or harm, would be supported by natural infrastructure.</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force: 08/08/1989</p>	<p>DoC</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) 1979</p>	<p>The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, is a binding international treaty to promote co-operation between countries in understanding and conserving migratory species and their habitats.</p> <p>The aim of this agreement is to preserve birds, marine and land-based species that traverse national boundaries as part of their normal migration.</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand is also one of 11 countries to have signed the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, developed under the Bonn Convention.</p> <p>Under CMS, Aotearoa New Zealand’s obligations are three-fold, as outlined in Article II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote, co-operate in and support research relating to migratory species • To endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species included in Appendix I • To endeavour to conclude Agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species included in Appendix II. <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitments under CMS, especially commitments to protect migratory species and to conserve their environments under Article II, would be supported by natural infrastructure.</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force: 01/10/2000</p>	<p>DoC</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
International Plant Protection Convention 1952 (IPPC)	<p>The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) recognises the effectiveness of international co-operation in controlling pests and diseases of plants and plant products in preventing their introduction and spread, across national boundaries.</p> <p>The aim of the Convention is to have a common and effective action with parties promoting measures of control in their domestic legislation (Article 1).</p> <p>The Convention has four broad objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting sustainable agriculture and enhancing global food security through the prevention of pest spread • Protecting the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests • Facilitating economic and trade development through harmonise scientific measures • Developing phytosanitary capacity for members to accomplish the preceding three objectives. <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitments under the IPPC, especially its commitments to protecting plant species and prevention of pests, would be supported by natural infrastructure.</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force: 16/09/1952</p>	<p>MPI</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Nouméa Convention: Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region 1986 (SPREP)</p>	<p>The Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region is an international treaty adopted in 1986. The Convention aims to provide an umbrella agreement for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the South Pacific Region.</p> <p>Article 5 requires parties to the convention to “take all appropriate measures” to “prevent, reduce and control pollution” and to “ensure sound environmental management and development of natural resources”.</p> <p>More specific articles then target specific kinds of pollution, such as airborne pollution (Article 9), disposal of waste (Article 10), nuclear testing (Article 12).</p> <p>Article 14 specifically protects threatened or endangered flora and fauna.</p> <p>The preamble notes that parties should be fully aware of the economic and social value of the natural resources, account for traditions and cultures, uphold their responsibility to preserve natural heritage for present and future generations, and recognise the special characteristics of the region.</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand is a party to the Convention and its two Protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping, which aims to prevent, reduce and control pollution by dumping waste in the South Pacific. • The Protocol Concerning Co-Operation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region, which aims to enhance cooperation among parties to protect the region from threats and effects of pollution incidents, especially due to the amount of vessel travel and utilisation of offshore resources. <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitments under the Nouméa Convention (SPREP) and its Protocols to prevent pollution and to protect endangered flora and fauna in the South Pacific would be supported by natural infrastructure investment in Aotearoa New Zealand, particularly in fisheries. Natural infrastructure development in Aotearoa New Zealand would also support iwi/Māori.</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force: 22/08/1990</p>	<p>MFAT MfE</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	<p>The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides the definitive legal order for oceans under international law. Under this Convention, Aotearoa New Zealand's sovereignty extends out to the edge of the territorial sea which is 12 nautical miles from New Zealand's coast.</p> <p>Its three core objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outline a country's freedoms of navigation and overflight • establish maritime zones, including States' territorial seas and exclusive economic zones (EEZ) • to provide for the protection and preservation of the marine environment, including living and non-living resources. <p>As a party, Aotearoa New Zealand has certain rights and obligations, including rights to explore, exploit, conserve and manage natural resources in its EEZ (part V); more limited rights in relation to the extended continental shelf to balance the rights of other States in the EEZ (part VI); and other general obligations (part XII), such as the need to prevent, reduce and control pollution arising from, or in connection with seabed activities (Article 194).</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand's commitments under UNCLOS, specifically the rights to protect and preserve natural resources and marine ecosystems (under Part XII) would be supported by natural infrastructure.</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force: 18/08/1996</p>	<p>MFAT represents NZ in global discussions and negotiations to ensure successful implementational and management.</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Various treaties relating to Pacific fisheries and oceans management, including Regional Fisheries Management Conventions such as the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) and others (conservation and optimum utilisation of living marine resources, in particular highly migratory fish stocks)</p>	<p>Treaties regarding fisheries and oceans conservation and management, such as the WCPFC, create structures for the management of fisheries in the regions covered by the relevant treaty by a dedicated regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO).</p> <p>For example, the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) is a convention signed by the WHO that applies to all species of highly migratory fish stocks (except saurians). Its objective is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean in accordance with UNCLOS and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.</p> <p>Article 5 of the Convention commits members to undertaking certain obligations to help conserve and manage these highly migratory fish stocks. Some notable obligations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting measures to ensure long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks (including measures that minimize waste, pollution and bycatch and promote the development and use of environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques) • Protection of biodiversity in the marine environment • Prevention of over-fishing. <p>The Convention also establishes the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, a regional fisheries management organisation that is responsible for managing highly migratory fish stocks.</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitments under these treaties relating to the conservation and sustainable use of certain fish stocks would be supported by natural infrastructure which helps prevent biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse in Aotearoa New Zealand waters.</p>	<p>WCPFC: NZ Entry into Force: 19/06/2004</p>	<p>MFAT administration of Treaty</p> <p>Ministry for Primary Industries international fisheries management</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
<p>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement</p>	<p>The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted on 9 May 1992.</p> <p>The UNFCCC contains the foundational legal framework and principles for international climate change cooperation with the aim of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to avoid “dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”</p> <p>The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in December 1997 under the UNFCCC.</p> <p>It committed industrialized countries and countries in transition to a market economy to achieve quantified emissions reduction targets for a basket of six GHGs.</p> <p>The Kyoto Protocol’s first commitment period took place from 2008 to 2012. The 2012 Doha Amendment established the second commitment period from 2013 to 2020.</p> <p>In December 2015, parties adopted the Paris Agreement, which is now the key global treaty governing the international climate change response, underpinned by the UNFCCC.</p> <p>The Paris Agreement requires all parties to determine, plan, and regularly report on the nationally determined contribution (NDC) that it undertakes to mitigate climate change (Article 4).</p> <p>The Agreement establishes a global goal on adaptation (Article 7).</p> <p>Parties must also submit aggregate progress on mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation, which are reviewed every five years through a Global Stocktake (Article 14).</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s first NDC was to reduce net emissions to 50 per cent below gross 2005 levels by 2030.</p> <p>In January 2025, New Zealand announced its second NDC, which is to reduce emissions by 51 to 55 per cent compared to 2005 levels, by 2035.</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitments under the Paris Agreement in relation to emissions mitigation, particularly its obligations to prepare and communicate progressively ambitious NDCs reflecting highest possible ambition (Articles 4.2 and 4.3), would be supported (albeit indirectly) by natural infrastructure which helps reduce emissions, e.g. native afforestation.</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitments under the Paris Agreement regarding climate adaptation (Article 7.1) would be supported by natural infrastructure which mitigates the impact of severe weather events linked to climate change.</p>	<p><u>UNFCCC:</u> NZ Entry into Force: 21/03/1994</p> <p><u>Kyoto Protocol:</u> NZ Entry into Force: 16/02/2005</p> <p><u>Paris Agreement:</u> NZ Entry into Force: 04/11/2016</p>	<p>MFAT – leads negotiating the international response to climate change.</p> <p>MfE – leads domestic climate change policy and implementation.</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)</p>	<p>The main goal of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) is to stop the worldwide loss of wetlands and ensure their effective management, recognising their ecological, economic, cultural and recreational value.</p> <p>Each party must designate suitable wetlands within its territory. Selection is based on their international significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology (Article 2).</p> <p>Each country must plan to promote the conservation of all listed wetlands, and the “wise use” of all other wetlands (Article 3(1)).</p> <p>Wise use is <u>defined</u> as “the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and all the services they provide, for the benefit of people and nature”.</p> <p>Countries must endeavour through management to increase waterfowl (birds’ dependant on wetlands) populations (Article 4(4)) and encourage research regarding wetlands and their flora and fauna (Article 4(3)).</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s obligations under RAMSAR to promote the conservation and “wise use” of wetlands would be supported by the utilisation and effective management and maintenance of wetlands as natural infrastructure.</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force: 13/12/1976</p>	<p>DoC</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
International agreements, obligations and commitments (including through Free Trade Agreements)			
<p>Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)</p>	<p>The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is an agreement between 11 countries in the Asia Pacific region, including Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>The Preamble promotes “high levels of environmental protection, including through effective enforcement of environmental laws, and [to] further the aims of sustainable development, including through mutually supportive trade and environmental policies and practices”.</p> <p>Article 20.3(3) binds the parties to strive to ensure their environmental laws and policies provide for, and encourage, high levels of environmental protection, and to continue improving these levels.</p> <p>Under Article 20.13, parties recognise the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity for sustainable development and are required to promote and encourage such conservation and use in accordance with their laws or policies.</p> <p>Article 20.13 acknowledges the significance of respecting, preserving, and maintaining the knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities that contribute to biodiversity conservation, and highlights the role of public participation and consultation in developing and implementing biodiversity measures.</p> <p>Article 20.15 acknowledges that transitioning to a low emissions economy requires collective action.</p> <p>The importance of conservation and sustainable management of fisheries is also recognised (Article 20.16(1)).</p> <p>Natural infrastructure could directly support Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitments under the CPTPP as natural infrastructure contributes to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable management of fisheries, and the transition to a low emissions economy.</p> <p>Through actions to embed, maintain and enhance natural infrastructure, Aotearoa New Zealand would more easily meet its obligations to promote high levels of environmental protection, support sustainable development, and cooperate on collective environmental interests.</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force: 30/12/2018</p>	<p>MFAT leads implementation and management.</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
<p>European Union-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA)</p>	<p>The European Union-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (EU-NZ FTA) is the first FTA built around the EU’s ‘Together for Green and Just Growth’ approach to trade and sustainable development.</p> <p>It has a significant environmental focus that translates into substantive environmental obligations for Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>Most of the relevant environmental provisions can be found in a dedicated Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) chapter (Chapter 19), which integrates environmental standards.</p> <p>Several other chapters are also relevant to New Zealand’s environmental obligations including:</p> <p>Chapter 7 which establishes co-operation between parties to move towards sustainable food systems.</p> <p>Chapter 13 which sets out rules for trade in energy goods and raw materials that contain environmental provisions.</p> <p>Chapter 16 which prohibits harmful fisheries subsidies. Discussions of sustainability and environmental issues are also found across many of the other chapters of the FTA.</p> <p>Chapter 19 commits the parties to promote the development of international trade in a way that contributes to the objective of sustainable development. Much of the chapter’s content is consistent with New Zealand’s other FTAs.</p> <p>However, a key novel feature is that entire Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter is subject to the dispute settlement provisions in Chapter 26, allowing for potential trade sanctions (which had not been the case for climate change or sustainability provisions in Aotearoa New Zealand’s earlier FTAs).</p> <p>Notably, the Article 19.6.3 obligation to refrain from any action or omission that materially defeats the object and purpose of the Paris Agreement is subject to State-State dispute settlement, and potential trade sanctions if breached (though this is likely to be a remote possibility in practice).</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitments under the NZ-EU FTA would be supported by natural infrastructure.</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s obligations under the NZ-EU FTA to uphold our commitments under the Paris Agreement would be supported by natural infrastructure which helps reduce emissions and helps improve resilience to severe weather events.</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force: 01/05/2024</p>	<p>MFAT</p>

COMMITMENT	DETAIL	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK-NZ FTA)</p>	<p>The Free Trade Agreement between Aotearoa New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK-NZ FTA) was entered into in 2023.</p> <p>It features the most far-reaching environment provisions that New Zealand had negotiated at the time.</p> <p>The Environment Chapter was the first to acknowledge Māori perspectives on the environment with reference to mauri and kaikiakitanga.</p> <p>Chapter 22 (Environment) of the UK-NZ FTA outlines commitments made by Aotearoa New Zealand and the UK in areas such as climate change, sustainable fisheries, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable agriculture. Most of the relevant environmental obligations can be found in Chapter 22.</p> <p>Key objectives outlined in Article 22.3 include enhanced cooperation to protect and conserve the environment and sustainably manage natural resources, as well as an explicit recognition of the urgent need to address climate change.</p> <p>Articles 22.4-22.6 commits both parties to maintain robust environmental laws and policies, implement their multilateral environmental obligations, and cooperate to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>Article 22.7 outlines a strong focus on facilitating trade and investment in environmental goods and services, including clean technology and renewable energy, as a driver of sustainable growth.</p> <p>Articles 22.9 -22.12 outline obligations regarding the sustainable management of agriculture, forests, and fisheries.</p> <p>Article 22.13 recognises the role of public procurement in advancing environmental objectives.</p> <p>Chapter 22’s provisions are supported by general exceptions for environmental protection (Article 32.1).</p> <p>Additionally, Article 11.4(2) recognises the importance of environmental considerations in investment decision-making and the exploration of environmental and sustainable projects and infrastructure.</p> <p>Article 22.26 also affirms that, if a State-State dispute is not resolved under Articles 22.23-22.25, the parties may request the establishment of a panel under Chapter 31 (Dispute Settlement), which provides binding dispute settlement which may ultimately result in “suspension of concessions” (effectively trade sanctions) (though this is likely to be a remote possibility in practice).</p> <p>Aotearoa New Zealand’s obligations under the UK-NZ FTA, particularly those in Chapter 22 could be supported by natural infrastructure that contributes to sustainable management of agriculture, forests, and fisheries.</p> <p>This connection is further reinforced by the recognition of environmental considerations in the exploration of sustainable infrastructure (Article 11.4(2)). Its obligations relating to Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitments under the Paris Agreement would be supported by natural infrastructure which helps reduce emissions and prevent the severe weather events linked to climate change (see UNFCCC and Paris Agreement above).</p>	<p>NZ Entry into Force Date: 31/05/2023</p>	<p>MFAT</p>

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS	DETAIL	DATE OF DIALOGUE	RESPONSIBLE
Intergovernmental dialogues and political commitments			
Australia-New Zealand 2+2 Climate and Finance Ministers' Dialogue Joint Statement Beehive.govt.nz	<p>This agreement with Australia relates to climate action and investment renewable energy.</p> <p>The agreement seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support trans-Tasman energy affordability, security and regulatory alignment • Realise the economic opportunities of the net zero transition • Expand collaboration on economic growth and productivity • Confirm our Pacific Partnership. <p>Investing in natural infrastructure will achieve the objectives of this agreement by reducing business costs, improving productivity, improving our energy structure resilience, and support our transition to a net zero, low emissions economy.</p>	5 December 2025	MBIE MfE

Appendix B: Aotearoa New Zealand's legislation supported by the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa

Table B: Detailed analysis of Aotearoa New Zealand’s existing legislation supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Biosecurity Act 1993	<p>The Biosecurity Act 1993 provides a legal framework for managing and preventing risks posed by harmful organisms to Aotearoa New Zealand’s environment, economy, and human health by enabling the detection, exclusion, and control of pests and diseases.¹</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure assists with managing and preventing such risks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping to support robust ecosystems that are more resistant to the establishment and spread of invasive species and diseases • minimising the risks of biosecurity breaches, which can lead to significant trade disruptions, loss of market access, and costly eradication programmes. 	<p>MPI</p>
Building Act 2004	<p>The Building Act 2004 regulates building work in Aotearoa New Zealand by establishing a licensing regime for practitioners and setting performance standards for buildings. Among other things, it seeks to ensure that buildings are designed, constructed, and able to be used in ways that promote sustainable development.</p> <p>The Act can require the use of natural infrastructure solutions² (e.g., sustainable drainage systems) to improve resilience and reduce long-term costs. These solutions help meet building code requirements for site stability, durability, and environmental protection.</p> <p>Natural infrastructure plays an important role in supporting the resilience of traditional infrastructure (e.g. hospitals, water treatment plants, essential transport links) by mitigating natural hazards and enhancing environmental stability.</p>	<p>Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE)</p>

1 See, for example, s 16 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

2 Building Act 2004, ss 3 and 4(2)(n).

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, and the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order 2015</p>	<p>The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (CDEM Act) seeks to improve and promote the sustainable management of hazards in a way that contributes to the social, economic, cultural, and environmental well-being and safety of the public and the protection of property.³</p> <p>The CDEM Act also seeks to provide for planning and preparation for emergencies, as well as for effective response and recovery when emergencies occur.⁴</p> <p>Additionally, the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order 2015 (CDEM Order) provides guiding principles and a framework to enable Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups to build resilience to a wide range of identified hazards.⁵</p> <p>The Order sets out roles and responsibilities, coordination arrangements, and objectives for managing the risks and consequences of hazards such as severe winds, floods, droughts, and wildfires.⁶</p> <p>It aims to ensure effective reduction, readiness, response, and recovery activities so that communities are better prepared for, and able to recover from, emergencies.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure would assist with achieving the purpose of the CDEM Act and the CDEM Order by increasing resilience to natural hazards (e.g., floods, landslides, coastal erosion, and storms) that can trigger civil defence emergencies. For example, by absorbing floodwaters, stabilising soils, and buffering coastlines, natural infrastructure systems helps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect critical transport routes, ports, and distribution hubs vital to major trade • safeguard productive land and water sources essential for food security and mahinga kai • enhance ecosystem resilience • reduce the severity and frequency of hazard impacts, thereby minimising the likelihood and scale of disruptions, and necessary emergency responses. <p>The CDEM Act also encourages and enables communities to identify, assess, and manage risks, and requires local authorities to coordinate planning and activities across reduction, readiness, response, and recovery.⁷ The actions noted above increase community resilience, help prevent or mitigate the effects of emergencies, and facilitate faster recovery by maintaining ecosystem services that protect people and property.</p>	<p>National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)</p>

3 CDEM Act, s 3(a).

4 CDEM Act, s 3.

5 National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order 2015, Sch 1, cl 4.

6 National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order 2015, Sch 1, cl 10.

7 CDEM Act, s 17.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Climate Change Response Act 2002	<p>The Climate Change Response Act 2002 (CCRA) provides the legal framework provides the legal framework for Aotearoa New Zealand’s response to climate change, including developing and implementing climate change policies, enabling Aotearoa New Zealand to meet its international obligations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and provide for the Emissions Trading Scheme.⁸</p> <p>The CCRA sets out Aotearoa New Zealand’s emissions targets and provides processes for establishing key policy tools and documents which provide for how those targets are proposed to be met including the Emissions Budgets, Emissions Reduction Plans, and National Adaptation Plans and price and volume controls under the Emissions Trading Scheme.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as restoring wetlands, forests, and coastal ecosystems, would support the CCRA’s objectives. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural infrastructure assists with achieving the purpose of the CCRA by helping to reduce the costs and risks associated with climate impacts • Natural infrastructure provides gross emissions or increased emissions removals, resulting in reduced net emissions • Nature-based solutions help communities adapt to the physical impacts of climate change including flooding, drought, and sea-level rise. <p>By improving ecosystem health and adaptive capacity, natural infrastructure investment not only contributes to meeting emissions targets but also supports the long-term stability and well-being of people and environments most at risk from climate change.</p>	<p>MfE EPA MPI</p>

8 CCRA, s 3.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Conservation Act 1987	<p>The Conservation Act 1987 was enacted to promote the conservation of Aotearoa New Zealand’s natural and historic resources.⁹</p> <p>The Act established the Department of Conservation (DoC), which is tasked with administering the Act and related legislation, managing conservation areas, preserving indigenous freshwater fisheries, protecting recreational freshwater fisheries and habitats, advocating for conservation, and promoting public education and recreational enjoyment where consistent with conservation.¹⁰</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as wetland restoration and riparian planting, assists with achieving the purpose of the Act by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserving and protecting natural resources • maintaining and improving freshwater fisheries and habitats • supporting the long-term health and resilience of ecosystems • enhancing opportunities for public appreciation and recreational enjoyment • enabling the Minister to impose a Ngā Whenua Rāhui kawenata to provide for the management of the land in a manner which will protect the natural and historic values of the land, or the spiritual and cultural values which Māori associate with the land.¹¹ <p>The Act empowers DoC to foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation and to allow for their use for tourism.¹²</p> <p>Natural infrastructure assists to facilitate this function by providing and maintaining accessible natural areas for public recreation and tourism.</p>	<p>DoC</p>
Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012	<p>The purpose of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZ Act) is to promote the sustainable management of the natural resources of Aotearoa New Zealand’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the continental shelf.</p> <p>It seeks to protect the EEZ and continental shelf from pollution by regulating the discharge of harmful substances and the dumping of waste.¹³</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure assists with achieving the purpose of the EEZ Act by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acting as a buffer against coastal erosion, storm surges, and sea level rise • helping to meet the requirements under the EEZ Act which require activities in the EEZ and continental shelf to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse environmental effects. 	<p>EPA</p>

9 See the “notes” of the Conservation Act 1987.
 10 Conservation Act 1987, s 6.
 11 Conservation Act 1987, s 27A.
 12 Conservation Act 1987, s 6.
 13 EEZ Act, s 10.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Fast-track Approvals Act 2024	<p>The purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.¹⁴</p> <p>When considering an activity for approval under the FTAA, the assessment of environmental effects must not only address impacts on the physical environment, but also any social, economic, and cultural effects.¹⁵ Natural infrastructure often involves the reduction or increased management of such impacts, which supports decisions that grant approvals to natural infrastructure investments.</p>	<p>MfE; Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)</p>
Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017	<p>The Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017 sets out functions for Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), which include responding to severe weather-related events, natural hazard events, and disasters.¹⁶ FENZ is empowered to assist in emergencies beyond fire, such as floods, storms, earthquakes, and other incidents where life, property, or the environment is at risk. These functions ensure that FENZ plays a key role in New Zealand’s coordinated emergency response and supports community safety and resilience in the face of a wide range of hazards.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as restoring wetlands, reforesting catchments, and enhancing floodplains, reduces the severity and frequency of wildfire, disasters and other severe weather impacts. These measures help to reduce wildfire risk, manage floodwaters, stabilise soils, and buffer communities against storms, thereby lessening the burden on emergency services like FENZ during and after such events.</p> <p>Natural infrastructure contributes to long-term community resilience and aligns with FENZ’s mandate to protect life, property, and the environment from a broad spectrum of hazards.</p>	<p>DIA</p>
Fisheries Act 1996	<p>The Fisheries Act 1996 (FA) seeks to provide for the utilisation of fisheries resources while ensuring sustainability, including through maintaining the potential of fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations and avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of fishing on the aquatic environment.¹⁷</p> <p>It also anticipates the use and development of fisheries resources to enable people to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and establishes the Quota Management System to guide the sustainable use of New Zealand fisheries.¹⁸</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure assists with supporting sustainable fisheries by providing critical habitats and improving water quality, which supports more reliable commercial and customary fishery stocks, protect mahinga kai, and help Aotearoa New Zealand meet sustainability standards required for export market access.</p>	<p>MPI</p>

14 FTAA, s 3.
 15 See, for example, s 7 of the FTAA.
 16 Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017, s12.
 17 FA, s 8.
 18 FA, Part 4.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Act 2025	<p>The Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Act 2025 seeks to contribute to the restoration of the health and mauri of the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana by:¹⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishing new marine reserves, seafloor protection areas, and high protection areas within the Hauraki Gulf acknowledging customary rights. <p>The Act sets out mechanisms for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem health in such designated areas.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as restoring coastal habitats, improving water quality, and enhancing marine ecosystems, assists in achieving the Act’s objectives by promoting the recovery and resilience of the Hauraki Gulf’s natural environment.</p> <p>Such actions help to maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity, improve ecosystem function, and support the mauri of the area, ensuring that marine reserves and protection areas can fulfil their intended role in the long-term health of the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana.</p>	<p>DoC</p>
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996	<p>The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO) provides the legislative framework for managing the risks posed by hazardous substances and new organisms in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>The primary purpose of HSNO is to protect the environment, and the health and safety of people and communities, by preventing or managing the adverse effects of hazardous substances and new organisms.²⁰</p> <p>HSNO establishes strict assessment, approval, and control processes for importing, manufacturing, developing, field testing, or releasing hazardous substances and new organisms. It requires consideration of ecosystem sustainability, the intrinsic value of ecosystems, and the need for caution in the face of scientific uncertainty.²¹</p> <p>HSNO also enables enforcement and compliance measures to ensure ecosystem protections are upheld.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as wetland restoration, riparian planting, and the protection of native habitats, supports the aims of HSNO by enhancing ecosystem resilience and reducing the risks associated with hazardous substances and new organisms. Healthy, functioning ecosystems can buffer the impacts of accidental releases or invasions, filter contaminants, and maintain biodiversity.</p> <p>Natural infrastructure also provides early warning and mitigation capacity for environmental risks, thereby complementing regulatory controls under HSNO.</p>	<p>MfE</p>

19 Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Act 2025, s 3.
 20 HSNO, s 4.
 21 HSNO, s 7.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014	<p>The purpose of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 is to promote the identification and preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>Those performing functions under the Act must recognise that historic places have lasting value, take account of such value and safeguard the options of present and future generations. In addition, they must recognise the value in central government agencies, local authorities, corporations, tangata whenua and individuals working collaboratively in respect of Aotearoa New Zealand’s historical and cultural heritage and the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tupuna, wāhi tapu, and other taonga.</p> <p>The use and/or investment in natural infrastructure facilitates preservation objectives through enhancing the resilience of historical and cultural and cultural sites against natural hazards such as flooding, erosion, or extreme weather events. It also better enable tangata whenua to exercise tino rangatiratanga over land, water and taonga in accordance with tikanga Māori.</p>	<p>MCH/Manatū Taonga</p>
Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act 2020	<p>The Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act 2020 (IFF Act) provides a funding and financing model for the provision of infrastructure for urban development in Aotearoa New Zealand. The IFF Act seeks to support the functioning of urban land markets, reduce the impact of local authority financing and funding constraints, support community needs and appropriately allocate costs of infrastructure.²²</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure assists with achieving the purpose of the IFF Act by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivering essential services (e.g., stormwater management, flood mitigation, and water purification) at lower cost than traditional “grey” infrastructure. Using nature-based solutions can therefore lower upfront capital expenditure, as natural solutions often require less intensive construction and reduce ongoing maintenance and operational costs • lowering the perceived risk of the project potentially resulting in more favourable financing terms from investors. 	<p>Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)</p>
<p>Infrastructure-specific legislation, including:²³</p> <p>Electricity Act</p> <p>Gas Act</p> <p>Telecommunications Act</p>	<p>Aotearoa New Zealand has a range of infrastructure-specific legislation which regulate various types of infrastructure, including, for example, the Electricity Act 1992, Gas Act 1992, and Telecommunications Act 2001.</p> <p>Natural infrastructure can also be applied to offshore development activities that may be regulated by the EEA Act. If applied to offshore activities, natural infrastructure may assist with achieving the purpose of the EEZ Act by helping to meet the requirements under the EEZ Act which require activities in the EEZ and continental shelf to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>In addition, investments that proactively protect or restore natural systems in the EEZ and continental shelf are less likely to face opposition or litigation, supporting the grant of necessary approvals.</p>	<p>MBIE</p>

22

IFF Act, ss 3 and 8.

23

For example: Electricity Act 1992, Gas Act 1992, Telecommunications Act 2001.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Act 2019*	<p>The Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Act 2019 established Kāinga Ora-Home and Communities as a Crown Entity which contributes to sustainable, inclusive and thriving communities. The objectives of Kāinga Ora under the Act include providing people with good quality, affordable housing choices that meet diverse needs, supporting access to jobs, amenities, and services, and otherwise sustain or enhance the overall economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of current and future generations.</p> <p>Natural infrastructure would assist in achieving the objectives of the Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Act 2019 through enhancing environmental wellbeing by improving air and water quality, supporting biodiversity, and providing resilience to climate change and natural hazards. Strengthened resilience to adverse climate impacts will decrease the pressure on Kāinga Ora by minimising the frequency and severity of damage to housing stocks. Further, access to green spaces enables recreational activity, social interaction, and promotes physical activity which contribute to healthier communities.</p>	<p>MHUD</p>
Land Transport Management Act 2003	<p>The Land Transport Management Act 2003 (LTMA) provides New Zealand’s legal framework for funding, managing, and planning land transport, and establishes the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). The LTMA seeks to contribute to an effective, efficient and safe land transport system in the public interest.²⁴</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure assists to achieve the aims of the LTMA by:</p> <p>contributing to cost-effectiveness and value for money. Some forms of natural infrastructure investments could be more cost-effective over the long term due to lower maintenance and operational costs compared to traditional infrastructure. By reducing the need for expensive repairs and upgrades after adverse events (e.g., floods), natural infrastructure may also help make better use of limited transport funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contributing to resilience and risk recovery. Natural infrastructure can help to mitigate the impact of natural hazards (e.g., flooding, landslides) on transport networks, reducing the frequency and severity of disruptions and the associated recovery costs. By stabilising slopes, absorbing floodwaters, and filtering runoff, natural infrastructure also helps protect roads, bridges, and railways, reducing the need for emergency funding and recovery expenditure. 	<p>Ministry of Transport (MOT)</p>

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Local Government Act 2002	<p>The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) provides for democratic and effective local government that recognises the diversity of New Zealand communities.²⁵</p> <p>Local authorities under the LGA are empowered to invest in natural assets that provide cost-effective services, such as using natural infrastructure for stormwater management instead of traditional built systems. The LGA also empowers and imposes duties on local authorities to respond to emergencies.²⁶</p> <p>Local authorities are empowered to make decisions that promote the social, economic, and cultural well-being of communities. By preserving and restoring ecosystems and landscapes that are significant to Māori and other groups, natural infrastructure could help Councils safeguard sites of cultural importance. This enables the meaningful exercise of kaitiakitanga and supports the recognition of local history and identity.</p>	<p>Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and Regional and District Councils</p>
Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025	<p>The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 provides a framework for local government to provide water services in a flexible, cost effective, financially sustainable and accountable manner.²⁷</p> <p>The Act is part of Aotearoa New Zealand’s ongoing water reform, focused on ensuring safe, reliable and sustainable water services.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure assists with achieving the purpose of the Act by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping to support the resilience and reliability of critical water infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems). For example, natural infrastructure acts as buffers during heavy rainfall or drought, supporting the continuity of water supply and treatment services • helping to mitigate hazards and service disruptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ wetlands and riparian buffers absorb and slow runoff, reducing the risk of flooding that can overwhelm stormwater and wastewater systems ○ natural vegetation filters pollutants and sediments, reducing the treatment burden on water supply infrastructure and lowering the risk of contamination events ○ forests and stable streambanks prevent erosion, protecting pipelines and other assets from exposure and failure • providing for cost effective solutions by utilising or protecting natural ecosystem services that would be costly to replicate/restore. 	<p>DIA</p>

25 LGA, s 3.

26 See, for example, s 173 of the LGA which empowers local authorities to enter occupied land or buildings if there is a sudden emergency likely to cause loss of life or injury to a person, or damage to property or the environment.

27 Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025, s 3.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Māori Fisheries Act 2004</p>	<p>The Māori Fisheries Act 2004 seeks to implement the Deed of Settlement dated 23 September 1992 signed by the Crown and Māori and referred to in the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992.</p> <p>It provides for the development of the interests of iwi in fisheries, fishing, and fisheries-related activities in a manner that is ultimately for the benefit of all iwi/Māori.²⁸</p> <p>Natural infrastructure assists in achieving the purpose of the Māori Fisheries Act 2004 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping to sustain healthy ecosystems and the fish habitats essential for breeding, feeding and migration of species, which support fish populations remaining robust and sustainable which is fundamental to the economic and cultural benefits derived from fisheries assets managed under the Māori Fisheries Act • supporting customary fishing rights - natural infrastructure helps iwi/Māori to exercise these rights, as thriving ecosystems are necessary for the continued availability of taonga species (treasured species) and the maintenance of traditional practices such as mahinga kai (food gathering) • enhancing kaitiakitanga - the Māori Fisheries Act recognises the importance of kaitiakitanga over fisheries resources. Natural infrastructure enables effective kaitiakitanga by providing the environmental conditions needed for iwi/Māori to fulfil their guardianship responsibilities, ensuring resources are protected and managed for future generations. 	<p>MPI</p>
<p>Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011</p>	<p>The purpose of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 (MACA) is to establish a scheme to ensure the protection of the legitimate interest of all New Zealanders in the marine and coastal area of New Zealand,²⁹ while recognising and providing for the customary interests of iwi, hapū and whanau, and acknowledging the Treaty of Waitangi.³⁰</p> <p>Section 85 of MACA specifically enables customary marine title groups to prepare planning documents that identify issues relevant to the regulation and management of their customary marine title areas, and to set out objectives and policies for achieving the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.³¹</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure may (if undertaken in collaboration or consultation with iwi, hapū and whanau) support the involvement of groups with customary interests in the protection and restoration of the marine and coastal environment. Such investment enables collaborative management, enhances the health of ecosystems, and upholds the exercise of kaitiakitanga. This approach aligns with the purpose of MACA by ensuring customary interests are recognised and integrated into the stewardship and sustainable management of the marine and coastal area for present and future generations.</p>	<p>Office of Treaty Settlements</p>

28 Māori Fisheries Act 2004, s 3.

29 MACA, s 4.

30 MACA, s 4.

31 MACA, s 85.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978	<p>The Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 provides for the protection, conservation, and management of marine mammals within Aotearoa New Zealand and within Aotearoa New Zealand fisheries waters.</p> <p>The Act establishes processes for the creation of conservation management strategies and plans for marine reserves,³² as well as population management plans,³³ to guide the integrated management and recovery of marine mammal populations and their habitats.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as restoring coastal habitats, improving water quality, and reducing threats from human activity, assists to create healthier environments for marine mammals. These actions support the objectives of the Act by protecting critical habitats, reducing mortality risks, and enhancing the resilience of marine mammal populations, thereby ensuring their long-term conservation and management.</p>	DoC
Marine Reserves Act 1971	<p>The Marine Reserves Act 1971 provides for the establishment and management of areas of the sea and foreshore as marine reserves for the purpose of preserving them in their natural state as the habitat of marine life for scientific study. The Act also provides for the creation of conservation management strategies and plans for marine reserves, which establish objectives for the integrated management of marine reserves.³⁴</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure includes the restoration of coastal habitats, protection of water quality, and/or enhancing marine ecosystems, supports the preservation of marine reserves in their natural state and the achievement of the relevant conservation management strategies and plans. These actions help maintain biodiversity, improve the resilience of marine habitats, and ensure that marine reserves remain valuable sites for scientific research.</p>	DoC
National Parks Act 1980	<p>The National Parks Act 1980 consolidates and amends the law relating to national parks, with an overarching purpose of preserving in perpetuity areas of distinctive natural, ecological, or significant value for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public.³⁵</p> <p>The Act also gives powers to the Minister of Conservation to authorise the introduction of any biological control organism to control wild animals or animal pests or plant pests in any national park.³⁶</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, which provide for benefits of supporting ecosystem services or achieving ecological restoration and pest control, help to maintain and restore the natural state of national parks, preserve indigenous species, and support healthy ecosystems, which contribute to the public’s use and enjoyment of those parks.</p>	DoC

32 Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, ss 3C and 3D.

33 Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, s 3E.

34 Marine Reserves Act 1971, ss 7 and 8.

35 National Parks Act 1980, s 4.

36 National Parks Act 1980, s 5A.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihanga Act 2019	<p>The New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihanga Act 2019 establishes the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission (Commission). The main function of the Commission is to coordinate, develop and promote an approach to infrastructure that encourages infrastructure, and services that result from the infrastructure, that improve the wellbeing of New Zealanders.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure assists with achieving the purpose of the Act in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by integrating natural systems into infrastructure planning, authorities can increase the resilience of critical assets to climate change and extreme weather events, reducing the frequency and severity of disruptions • helping to mitigate natural hazards that threaten critical infrastructure • providing cost-effective and sustainable risk management options to infrastructure. 	<p>Treasury</p>
Public Works Act 1981	<p>The Public Works Act 1981 (PWA) provides the legal framework for both agreed and compulsory acquisition of land for public works and critical infrastructure projects in New Zealand. It also regulates the post-acquisition use and management of such land.</p> <p>Natural infrastructure assists in achieving the acquisition, use and maintenance of essential infrastructure by reducing the need for PWA compulsory acquisition by increasing the social licence for a project, increasing the likelihood of agreement being reached.</p>	<p>Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) MPI</p>

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Reserves Act 1977</p>	<p>The Reserves Act 1977 was established to acquire, preserve and manage areas in New Zealand that have conservation value or public recreational and educational values.³⁷</p> <p>One of the objectives of the Reserves Act is to ensure the preservation of public access to the coastal environment and the preservation of its natural character.³⁸</p> <p>Maintaining and enhancing natural infrastructure such as native bush, wetlands, and restored landscapes supports recreational activities, thereby increasing the amenity and enjoyment of public reserves. Creating high-quality natural spaces also fosters community wellbeing and social interaction.</p> <p>Well managed natural infrastructure may also assist with the preservation of the character and integrity of culturally significant sites, support the protection of wāhi tapu and other heritage features, and provides spaces for cultural activity. In this way, investment in natural infrastructure may also support cultural heritage.</p> <p>The Reserves Act also aims to ensure the survival of all indigenous species of flora and fauna.³⁹ Investing in natural infrastructure may support this objective by improving the quality and resilience of habitats, promoting the survival of indigenous species, and maintaining or restoring the natural character and biodiversity of reserves. These actions enhance public enjoyment and access, ensure the ongoing protection of significant natural values, and help safeguard these areas for future generations in line with the Act’s purpose.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure which supports well-functioning ecosystem services within reserves has wider benefits, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce the need for costly interventions after storms or floods (ensuring reserves remain accessible and functional for public/ community activities, as well as authorised private and business activities that take place and rely on reserves); and minimise the spread of pests and diseases that could threaten adjacent land or water bodies. 	<p>DoC</p>

37 Reserves act, s 3.
 38 Reserves Act 1997, s 3(1)(c).
 39 Reserves Act 1977, s 3(1)(b).

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Resource Management Act 1991. See subordinate policy documents, plans and regulations below.</p>	<p>The purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is to promote the management of natural and physical resources in a way that enables people to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing.⁴⁰ The RMA applies to the Crown/public sector⁴¹ as well as the private sector.</p> <p>The RMA also empowers and imposes duties on Councils to respond to emergencies in certain circumstances. For example, Councils are empowered to undertake emergency works without prior consent where an adverse effect on the environment requires immediate preventive or remedial measures.⁴²</p> <p>The RMA is supported by a number of subordinate national policy documents and environmental standards which are required to be given effect to in the planning documents prepared by Regional and District Councils.</p> <p>These subordinate documents/ standards include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS), which sets out objectives and policies to achieve the purpose of the RMA in relation to the coastal environment of Aotearoa New Zealand. The NZCPS seeks to preserve and protect the values of the coastal environment and enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing in relation to the coastal environment. • National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD), which sets out national objectives and policies for planning for well-functioning urban environments in New Zealand. The NPS-UD seeks to maintain well-functioning urban environments, provide for adequate housing supply and quality in Aotearoa New Zealand, and provide for the efficient operation of infrastructure. • National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM), which sets out the national objectives and policies for freshwater management in Aotearoa New Zealand. The NPS-FM incorporates the concept of Te Mana o te Wai, which refers to the fundamental importance of water and recognises the that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and wellbeing of the wider environment. It requires local authorities to develop a National Objectives Framework, which identifies freshwater values and attributes and sets environmental outcomes. • National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPS-IB), which aims to maintain indigenous biodiversity while providing for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities now and in the future.⁴³ In particular, the NPS-IB requires indigenous biodiversity be maintained through recognising the mana of tangata whenua as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity.⁴⁴ • National Environmental Standards for Freshwater Regulations 2020 (NES-F), which are a set of national freshwater regulations. Part 3 of the NES-F sets standards and conditions for activities affecting freshwater and wetlands, aiming to maintain or improve their ecological health and protect their values.⁴⁵ • National Environmental Standards for Air Quality 2004 (NES-AQ), which are a set of national air quality regulations. The NES-AQ sets ambient air quality standards for contaminants and regulates certain activities that could result in air discharges. 	<p>MfE</p> <p>Regional and District Councils, DoC (NZCPS)</p>

40 RMA, s 5.
 41 Subject to RMA, s4.
 42 See, for example, RMA ss 330.
 43 NPS-IB, at [2.1].
 44 NPS-IB, at [2.1].
 45 NES-F, Part 3.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>RMA Continued</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry 2017 (NES-CF), which are a set of national regulations relating to commercial forestry activities (including afforestation, pruning and thinning to waste, earthworks, river crossings, forestry quarrying, harvesting, mechanical land preparation, and replanting). • National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water 2007 (NES-DW), which are a set of national regulations relating to activities with the potential to affect certain drinking-water supplies. The purpose of the NES-DW is to reduce the risk of contamination of drinking-water sources by requiring Regional Councils to consider the effects of certain activities on drinking-water sources when granting water or discharge permits and amending regional plans. • National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011 (NES-CS), which are a set of national regulations relating to activities on land whose soil may be contaminated in such a way as to be a risk to human health. The activities regulated by the NES-CS include removing or replacing, sampling and disturbing soil, subdividing land and changing the use of a piece of land. <p>National Environmental Standards for Aquaculture 2020 (NES-MA), which are set of national marine aquaculture regulations. NES-MA regulates replacement coastal permits in respect of existing marine farms for aquaculture activities.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure assists with achieving the purpose of the RMA and the aims of these subordinate documents by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping to safeguard the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems • helping to manage environmental risks, such as flooding and erosion. By investing in natural flood buffers, natural infrastructure reduces the likelihood of costly damage to assets • serving as a cost-effective means of avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse environmental effects⁴⁶ • helping to maintain and/or enhance amenity values through creation and preservation of natural spaces that contribute to community identity and quality of life • enhancing spaces for cultural expression and connection (including mahinga kai), community gatherings and traditional practices, as required by the NPS-UD. By integrating and maintaining natural infrastructure in urban planning, cities may be able to support the cultural practices of diverse communities and ensure that urban environments remain vibrant and inclusive for future generations • helping to support the resilience and reliability of critical water infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems), to achieve the NES-DW 	

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>RMA Continued</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping to improve water quality, regulate water flows, reduce flooding and erosion, and provide habitat for native species. By enhancing ecosystem services and building resilience to climate change, natural infrastructure may assist with achieving freshwater health and sustainability targets set out in the NPS-FM, benefitting both the environment and local communities • supporting export opportunities, via maintaining well-functioning natural ecosystem services that underpin specific industries (e.g., eco-tourism, fisheries, forestry) that generate export revenue, helping to achieve the NES-CF and NES-MA • supporting the objectives of Part 3 of the NES-F by enhancing water quality, restoring wetland ecosystems, and protecting indigenous biodiversity. These actions help ensure that freshwater resources and wetlands are managed sustainably, in line with the intent of the NES-F to safeguard ecological health and resilience for current and future generations • supporting the continued functioning of the coastal environment as an accessible and enjoyable public space for the community to enjoy, as required under the NZCPS • helping to reduce air pollutants • sustaining habitats for indigenous species and enabling tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga (helping to achieve the objectives of the RMA and the NPS-IB) • providing opportunities for customary activities such as mahinga kai, harvesting materials, and traditional practice • helping to safeguard wāhi tapu and places of historical or cultural significance, enabling the ongoing exercise of kaitiakitanga and the intergenerational transfer of mātauranga Māori. 	
<p>Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023</p>	<p>The Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023 (SWERLA) is designed to assist communities and local authorities affected by severe weather events to respond to and recover from their impacts.⁴⁷ Under the SWERLA, the Governor-General is empowered to make Orders in Council relating to severe weather events.⁴⁸ The SWERLA enables coordinated planning, rebuilding, and recovery efforts, including the restoration of land, infrastructure, and property, and the enhancement of resilience and well-being in affected areas.⁴⁹</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as restoring wetlands, riparian planting, and enhancing floodplains, may help to reduce the impact of future severe weather events, strengthen community resilience, and support long-term recovery. Such investments help manage floodwaters, prevent erosion, and restore ecosystem services, making recovery efforts more effective and sustainable.</p> <p>Building natural resilience assists with reducing the burden and adverse effects on local communities and businesses from the need to manage the delivery of services under SWERLA.</p>	<p>DPMC</p>

47 Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023, s 3.

48 See, for example: Severe Weather Emergency Recovery (Hawke’s Bay Flood Protection Works) Order 2024; Severe Weather Emergency Recovery (Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transpower Agency) Order 2023; Severe Weather Emergency Recovery (Auckland Flood Resilience Works) Order 2024.

49 Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023, s 3.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Social Security Act 2018, including the Social Security Regulations 2018 made under the Act</p>	<p>The Social Security Act 2018 provides for financial and other support as appropriate to help people to support themselves in terms of finding and retaining paid employment and training.⁵⁰</p> <p>The Social Security Regulations 2018 are made under the Act and allow financial assistance to be provided to people affected by severe weather events, including provisions for temporary accommodation. The Regulations enable the Ministry of Social Development to grant Temporary Additional Support and emergency housing assistance to those who need to leave their homes due to damage or risk from severe weather.</p> <p>The Regulations set out eligibility criteria, allowable costs, and the process for applying for support to ensure that affected individuals and families have access to safe, temporary housing during periods of displacement.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as wetland restoration, reforestation, and floodplain enhancement, may reduce the frequency and severity of displacement by lessening the impact of flooding and other severe weather events. By protecting communities and infrastructure, these measures could help decrease the demand for temporary accommodation and reduce the financial and social burden on both individuals and the government. In this way, natural infrastructure investment may support the intent of the Regulations by enhancing community resilience and minimising the disruption caused by severe weather events.</p>	<p>Ministry of Social Development (MSD)</p>
<p>Te Urewera Act 2014</p>	<p>The Te Urewera Act 2014 sets out principles to establish and preserve in perpetuity a legal identity and protected status for Te Urewera, and preserve as far as possible natural features and the integrity of the indigenous ecological systems and biodiversity of Te Urewera, recognise its intrinsic and cultural values and exterminate all introduced plants and animals.⁵¹</p> <p>The Te Urewera Act recognises that Te Urewera is a place of spiritual value, with its own mana and mauri. The Act requires that Te Urewera is preserved for its intrinsic worth, its value to Tūhoe as tangata whenua, and for the benefit of iwi and hapū with special associations to the land, as well as for its distinctive natural and cultural values.</p> <p>The maintenance of relevant natural infrastructure could aid in achieving the purpose of the Act through supporting well-functioning ecosystems.</p>	<p>DoC</p>

50 Social Security Act 2018, s 3.
 51 Te Urewera Act 2014, s 5.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>Ngāti Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005</p> <p>Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998</p> <p>Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017</p> <p>Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010</p>	<p>In this summary the term ‘Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts’ refers to legislation passed to finalise/settle historical claims by Māori iwi and hapū against the Crown for breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi.⁵² This group of Acts is extensive and varied but generally aims to remedy historic injustices, with Acts establishing governance, managing taonga and natural resources,⁵³ and occasionally granting legal personhood.⁵⁴</p> <p>The embedding, maintenance and enhancement of natural infrastructure may play a role in facilitating the processes set out under settlement legislation.</p> <p>Many settlements include the return or co-management of culturally significant natural resources, recognising the connection iwi and hapū have with these resources. Maintaining and providing for natural infrastructure may assist the Crown and post-settlement governance entities to uphold the values that underpin Treaty of Waitangi settlements.</p> <p>Well maintained natural infrastructure would also support the exercise of kaitiakitanga and enable the revitalisation of traditional practices.</p>	<p>Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti</p>

52 For example, see the Ngāti Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005 and Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

53 For example, see the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010.

54 For example, see Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017.

LEGISLATION	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Water Services Act 2021	<p>The Water Services Act 2021 establishes a regulatory framework for the provision of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>The Act’s main purpose is to ensure that drinking water suppliers provide safe and sufficient drinking water to consumers, requiring suppliers to have and implement drinking water safety plans, comply with drinking water standards, and maintain consumer complaint processes.⁵⁵</p> <p>The Act also provides for ongoing monitoring, compliance, and enforcement,⁵⁶ introduces national engineering design standards for water infrastructure, and sets out environmental performance requirements for wastewater and stormwater networks.⁵⁷ These provisions are designed to protect public health, ensure reliable water services, and promote continuous improvement and transparency in the sector.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as restoring wetlands, reforesting catchments, and enhancing floodplains, may support the objectives of the Water Services Act 2021 by improving the quality and resilience of water sources. Such measures may help to filter contaminants, stabilise soils, and manage flood waters, thereby reducing risks to source water and supporting the supply of safe drinking water.</p> <p>Natural infrastructure may also buffer communities against extreme weather events, reduce the burden on engineered water systems, and contribute to long-term sustainability and public health. These investments align with the Act’s emphasis on risk management and continuous improvement in water services, supporting a more resilience and effective water services sector across Aotearoa New Zealand.</p>	<p>DIA</p>
Wild Animal Control Act 1977	<p>The Wild Animal Control Act 1977 has the aims of controlling wild animals generally and eradicating them locally where necessary and practicable.</p> <p>The Act requires concerted action against the damaging effects of wild animals on vegetation, soils, waters, and wildlife, and provides powers and mechanisms for their management, control, and, where necessary, eradication.⁵⁸</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, which may involve, for example, habitat restoration, reforestation or enhancement of native ecosystems, may support the objectives of the Act by reducing the vulnerability of natural areas to wild animal impacts.</p> <p>Such investments may help restore ecological balance, improve the resilience of indigenous species and habitats, reduce soil erosion and water degradation, and ensure the long-term health of Aotearoa New Zealand’s natural environment.</p>	<p>DoC</p>

55 Water Services Act 2021, s 3.
 56 Water Services Act 2021, s36.
 57 Water Services Act 2021, s 138.
 58 Wild Animal Control Act 1977, s 4.

Appendix C: Aotearoa New Zealand's Government policies, frameworks and plans which would be supported by the Natural Infrastructure Plan and vice versa

Table C: Detailed analysis of Aotearoa New Zealand’s existing policies, frameworks and plans supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancing our natural infrastructure.

This table provides a non-exhaustive overview of parts of those documents which may be supported by embedding, maintaining and enhancement of our natural infrastructure. Many of the policies, frameworks, and plans included are extensive and as such summaries are provided.

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Biodiversity Credits Markets	<p>The Aotearoa New Zealand’s Biodiversity Credit System is a proposal by the Government to expand the Aotearoa New Zealand voluntary nature credits market.</p> <p>It aims to incentivise and reward actions that protect, restore, and enhance native biodiversity on public and private land through a market-based approach.</p> <p>The objectives of the Biodiversity Credit System include creating a transparent and credible framework for measuring and verifying biodiversity gains, enabling landowners and organisations to earn tradable credits for positive biodiversity outcomes, and encouraging investment in conservation activities. The system seeks to mobilise private sector funding, support partnerships with iwi/Māori and communities, and contribute to national and international biodiversity targets.</p> <p>Investing in credible natural infrastructure underpins the generation of biodiversity credits.</p>	<p>MfE</p>
Budget Policy Statement 2025	<p>The Budget Policy Statement 2025 sets out the Governments goals and objectives which will guide the forthcoming budget. The 2025 goals and priorities are to:¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a stronger, more productive economy that lifts real incomes and increases opportunities for all New Zealanders • Deliver more efficient, effective and responsive public services to all who need and use them – in particular, to restore law and order and improve health outcomes and educational achievements • Get the Government’s books back in order and restore discipline to public spending. <p>Investing in natural infrastructure supports the aims of the Budget Policy Statement 2025 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosting economic productivity and resilience given healthy and robust ecosystem services are often more cost efficient than artificial or replacement services, may reduce the costs of natural disasters and support sustainable industries like agriculture, fisheries and tourism. • Reducing long-term costs given well-functioning natural infrastructure increases the value and resilience of surrounding public and private property. • Enhanced infrastructure performance. Integrating natural infrastructure with built assets may extend the lifespan of traditional infrastructure and reduce maintenance costs, supporting the Government’s objective of more efficient, effective and sustainable public services. 	<p>Treasury</p>

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Building New Zealand's Long-term Resilience to Hazards 2025</p>	<p>Building Aotearoa New Zealand's Long-term Resilience to Hazards 2025' is a long term insights briefing (Briefing) that addresses Aotearoa New Zealand's evolving hazard landscape and risks can be managed more proactively to protect people and assets.</p> <p>Section 4 of the Briefing outlines opportunities for Aotearoa New Zealand to proactively build resilience to hazards, moving beyond a reactive approach that relies on insurance and government bailouts after disasters.² The section highlights the importance of investing in a better understanding of hazards, prioritising efforts on the most consequential risks, enhancing community resilience, harnessing technology and AI, and designing more resilient infrastructure. It also emphasises the need for innovative funding and investment strategies that fairly distribute costs and benefits, and the importance of embedding resilience into government policy, planning, and community action for long-term wellbeing and security.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as restoring wetlands, riparian planting, and developing nature-based flood management solutions, may help to support the objectives of the Briefing by reducing hazard exposure, strengthening ecosystem resilience, and providing cost-effective, long-term protection against. These investments may help safeguard communities, protect critical assets, and deliver co-benefits such as improved water quality, biodiversity, and climate adaptation.</p>	<p>DPMC</p> <p>MfE</p>
<p>Climate Change Strategy 2024</p>	<p>The Aotearoa New Zealand Government's Climate Strategy aims to reduce the impacts of climate change and prepare the country for its future effects. The Climate Strategy sets out commitments to meet climate change targets, including reducing net greenhouse gas emissions to 50% below gross 2005 levels by 2030 and achieving net zero for long-lived gases by 2050.</p> <p>The overarching objective is to protect communities, the economy, and the environment while ensuring a fair and enduring transition for all New Zealanders.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure may help to achieve these targets by increased sequestration of carbon, and building resilience to climate impacts. Such investments may not only reduce net emissions but also safeguard water quality, reduce flood and erosion risks, and sustain ecosystem services that benefit people, communities, and the economy. By strengthening the natural environment, natural infrastructure investments are a critical part of Aotearoa New Zealand's strategy for a low-emissions, climate-resilient future.</p>	<p>MfE</p>

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Conservation General Policy</p>	<p>The Conservation General Policy aims to provide a unified, statute-based framework for the protection, preservation, and management of Aotearoa New Zealand’s natural and historic resources across public conservation lands and waters, excluding national parks.³</p> <p>The objectives of the Conservation General Policy include guiding the consistent administration of the Conservation Act 1987, Wildlife Act 1953, Marine Reserves Act 1971, Reserves Act 1977, Wild Animal Control Act 1977, and Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978.</p> <p>The Conservation General Policy seeks to protect indigenous species, habitats, and ecosystems; preserve historical and cultural heritage; enable public benefit and enjoyment; and support sustainable use and recreation. It also aims to foster public participation, uphold Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities, and enable integrated conservation management across diverse areas and resources.</p> <p>Investing in conservation activities through natural infrastructure where it relates to conservation land (such as habitat restoration, pest and weed control, and protection of threatened species within the conservation estate) may assist to achieve the objectives of the Conservation General Policy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing ecosystem health • supporting biodiversity • strengthening cultural connections with the environment • improving the resilience of recreational, historic and cultural assets • providing opportunities for recreation and sustainable economic activity in Aotearoa New Zealand. 	<p>DoC</p>

3 Conservation General Policy, p 8.

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Conservation Management Strategies</p> <p>See, for example: Auckland Conservation Management Strategy</p>	<p>Conservation Management Strategies (CMS) aim to provide region-specific direction for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, recreation, tourism, and other conservation purposes on public conservation lands and waters throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>The objectives of Conservation Management Strategies include implementing the Conservation General Policy and relevant legislation, setting out objectives and policies for the protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity and historical and cultural heritage, and enabling public access and enjoyment. Conservation Management Strategies seek to ensure consistent and effective conservation outcomes across regions, support partnerships with tangata whenua, iwi, hapū, and local communities, and uphold Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities. They also facilitate public participation in planning and decision-making, and contribute to national and international conservation targets.</p> <p>Each CMS identifies key natural, historical, and recreational values within a region, establishes planned outcomes and objectives for specific places, and addresses potential conflicts and cumulative effects of different uses. The strategies guide decision-making on activities such as recreation, tourism, concessions, pest management, and restoration projects, ensuring these are consistent with statutory purposes and conservation values.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure may assist to achieve the objectives of Conservation Management Strategies by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping to support healthy and resilient ecosystems; • helping to preserve Aotearoa New Zealand’s unique natural and cultural heritage; and • helping to ensure that conservation lands and waters are managed sustainably for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. 	<p>DoC</p>

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
National Infrastructure Plan	<p>The Aotearoa New Zealand Draft National Infrastructure Plan sets out a vision for resilient, sustainable, and future-focused infrastructure across Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure assists in achieving the Draft National Infrastructure Plan by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing resilience – for example natural infrastructure such as wetlands, forests, and dunes may buffer communities and infrastructure from floods, storms, and coastal erosion, reducing the impact of extreme weather events and climate change; and • Supporting sustainability and climate change goals – for example natural infrastructure absorbs and stores carbon, helping to offset emissions from infrastructure construction and operation. 	<p>New Zealand Infrastructure Commission</p>
Emissions Trading Scheme 2007	<p>The Aotearoa New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme 2007 (ETS) was established to support and encourage global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing New Zealand’s net emissions below business-as-usual levels and meeting international obligations, including under the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>The objectives of the ETS cover all major sectors and greenhouse gases, integrating emissions costs into economic decision-making, promoting investment in low-emissions technologies, and ensuring the transition to a low-emissions economy is economically efficient, equitable, and environmentally robust.⁴</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure, such as afforestation, wetland restoration, and improved land management, may directly support the ETS by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing carbon sequestration and enhancing the resilience of natural carbon sinks.⁵ These actions help participants meet unit obligations, reduce Aotearoa New Zealand’s net emissions, and provide co-benefits for biodiversity, water quality, and landscape resilience • facilitating a smoother transition for sectors like forestry and agriculture, which aligns with the ETS equity and efficiency principles, and supports long-term sustainability objectives • delivering direct and indirect financial benefits. 	<p>EPA</p>

4 ETS, p 5.

5 New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, p 5.

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
General Policy for National Parks	<p>The General Policy for National Parks aims to preserve and protect Aotearoa New Zealand’s national parks for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the public, ensuring these areas are maintained in perpetuity for current and future generations.</p> <p>The objectives of the General Policy include providing clear direction and national consistency for the management of national parks, ensuring the preservation of indigenous species, habitats, ecosystems, and natural features, and recognising the historical and cultural heritage values of these areas.</p> <p>The General Policy seeks to balance the protection of natural and historic resources with public access and recreational opportunities, support partnerships and participation with tangata whenua and the wider public and uphold Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities. It also aims to integrate conservation management, foster research and education, and contribute to national and international conservation commitments.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure relevant to national parks may assist to achieve the objectives of the General Policy for National Parks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting ecosystem health • helping to preserve New Zealand’s unique flora and fauna existing in national parks. <p>These investments enhance recreational opportunities, build resilience to environmental change, and ensure that national parks remain a treasured part of Aotearoa New Zealand’s natural and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>DoC</p>
Going For Growth	<p>“Going for Growth” is a national economic strategy which aims to enhance national prosperity, employment, and incomes through fostering competitive business environments, promoting global trade and investment, advancing innovation, and strengthening infrastructure.</p> <p>Key initiatives include attracting investment through Invest NZ, streamlining visa processes, supporting Māori businesses, improving trade opportunities, and reforming competition regulations, all with the goal of building a stronger and more prosperous Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>By enhancing and preserving natural assets through investing in natural infrastructure, Aotearoa New Zealand may be better positioned to improve climate resilience, reduce the impact of natural disasters, and lower long-term infrastructure costs. Furthermore, investment in natural infrastructure could support regional development and promote sustainable growth, which aligns with Going for Growth’s objective to build a robust infrastructure network for a prosperous Aotearoa New Zealand.</p>	<p>MBIE</p>

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Going for Growth with Māori</p>	<p>The Going for Growth with Māori initiative aims to accelerate Māori economic growth by improving the regulatory and legislative framework for Māori-owned land, simplifying planning processes and attracting investment, facilitating targeted infrastructure investment to drive employment and sustainable growth, and boosting Māori business exports through trade, tourism, and intellectual property.</p> <p>Investment in natural infrastructure may support these objectives by making Māori-owned land more development-ready and resilient, reducing environmental risks and compliance costs, and enhancing the sustainability and appeal of Māori-led projects. Additionally, integrating natural infrastructure into tourism and export ventures may create unique value propositions, strengthening the long-term economic and environmental wellbeing of iwi/Māori communities.</p>	<p>Te Puni Kōkiri – Kāinga (Ministry for Māori Development)</p>
<p>Going for Housing Growth Programme (GfHG)</p>	<p>The Going for Housing Growth Programme (GfHG) programme seeks to support the Government’s goal of reducing Aotearoa New Zealand’s ongoing housing shortage.</p> <p>The GfHG seeks to make system changes such as freeing up land for urban development, improving infrastructure funding and financing to support urban growth, and providing incentives for communities and Councils to support growth. These three pillars seek to improve housing affordability by significantly increasing the supply of developable land for housing.</p> <p>Environmental hazards, stormwater management and land degradation often constrain land availability and add costs to housing projects. Investment in natural infrastructure may support the objectives of the GfHG by mitigating adverse environmental effects and therefore freeing up more land for development, optimising infrastructure funding, and improving affordability.</p>	<p>HUD</p>

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development 2025</p>	<p>The Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development 2025 (GPS-HUD) sets out the Aotearoa New Zealand Government’s long-term vision and priorities for the housing and urban development system. Its key aims are to:⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand lives in a home and within a community that meets their needs and aspirations • Promote stable, affordable and healthy homes for all, including those most in need • Enable adaptive and responsive housing and urban systems that can respond to social, environmental and economic change • Support thriving and resilient communities, with well-functioning infrastructure and access to jobs, services and amenities • Strengthen Māori-led housing solutions and uphold genuine partnership with Māori • Address barriers to housing and urban development, including efficient land markets and effective regulation • Foster sustainable, well-targeted investment in housing, with a focus on value for money and long-term outcomes. <p>Investing in natural infrastructure may enhance risk management and resilience within urban and housing systems, particularly in the face of disruptions to systemically important supply chains. Specifically, natural infrastructure may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create healthy natural systems which buffer urban areas from flooding, storms and other natural hazards, reducing the risk of major disruptions to housing, transport and supply chains • Enhance long-term housing sustainability by integrating natural infrastructure into urban planning to align with the GPS-HUD’s focus on adaptive, responsive systems and thriving, resilient communities, ensuring that housing and urban environments can withstand and recover from both acute shocks and long-term pressures. 	<p>New Zealand Government and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)</p>
<p>Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024</p>	<p>The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS-LT) sets strategic priorities for Aotearoa New Zealand’s land transport system, emphasising economic growth and productivity, increased maintenance and resilience, safety, and value for money.⁷</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure would assist the GPS-LT by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contributing to environmental resilience by providing carbon sequestration, temperature regulation and flood mitigation • providing natural barriers and improved road conditions (e.g. natural drainage systems can prevent water pooling and ice formation, reducing crash risks) • assisting with erosion control and disaster recovery. 	<p>MOT</p>

6 GPS-HUD, pp 6-14.
7 GPS-LT, from p 9.

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>Government Target 9 Reduced Net Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2024</p>	<p>Under Government Target 9, the Aotearoa New Zealand Government has set a target to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions, aiming to meet the country's 2050 net zero climate change goals. Specifically, total net emissions must not exceed 290 megatonnes from 2022 to 2025 and 305 megatonnes from 2026 to 2030.</p> <p>Progress is supported by ongoing policy development and implementation under the Emissions Reduction Plans (ERP), including legislative changes, investment in renewable energy and advancements in agricultural technology to reduce emissions.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure may support achieving these emissions targets.</p> <p>Natural infrastructure may include afforestation activities that absorb and store carbon, improve ecosystem resilience, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from land use. These measures not only support the Government's emissions reduction objectives but also provide additional benefits, such as improved biodiversity, water quality and community resilience to climate change. By integrating natural infrastructure into climate policy and action, Aotearoa New Zealand may be able to further strengthen its progress towards net zero emissions and support the sustainable management of its natural resources for future generations.</p>	<p>MfE</p>
<p>Marine Protected Areas Policy and Implementation Plan</p>	<p>The objective of the Marine Protected Areas Policy and Implementation Plan is to protect marine biodiversity by establishing a network of marine protected areas that is comprehensive and representative of Aotearoa New Zealand's marine habitats and ecosystems.⁸</p> <p>Marine protected areas are defined as areas of the marine environment especially dedicated to, or achieving, through adequate protection, the maintenance and/or recovery of biological diversity at the habitat and ecosystem level in a healthy functioning state.⁹</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure may assist to achieve the objectives of the Marine Protected Areas Policy and Implementation Plan by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contributing to the recovery and resilience of marine ecosystems • contributing to national and international biodiversity commitments • providing opportunities for recreation, research, tourism and sustainable resource use. 	<p>DoC</p>

8 Marine Protected Areas Policy and Implementation Plan, p 10.

9 Marine Protected Areas Policy and Implementation Plan, p 10.

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
National Adaptation Framework	<p>The National Adaptation Framework 2025 sets out the New Zealand Government’s approach to the growing risks from climate change.</p> <p>It seeks to manage growing risks from extreme weather events such as flooding, coastal inundation and landslides, and aims to establish a clear, enduring and cohesive approach for identifying natural hazards and setting out how they will be managed.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure may assist in achieving the purpose of the National Adaptation Framework 2025 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing exposure and vulnerability to climate risks through flood and storm protection and coastal defence • enhancing the resilience of communities and infrastructure through urban cooling and water management, and contributing to improved biodiversity and ecosystem services • providing tangible financial opportunities by reducing costs and improving asset values. 	<p>MfE</p>
National Adaptation Plan 2022	<p>The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) sets out Aotearoa New Zealand’s strategy for adapting to the impacts of climate change and building long-term resilience across communities, the economy, and the environment.¹⁰</p> <p>The objectives of the NAP include reducing vulnerability to climate impacts, enhancing adaptive capacity, and strengthening resilience to climate risks.¹¹ The NAP provides a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to address significant risks identified in the National Climate Change Risk Assessment, with priorities such as enabling better risk-informed decisions, driving climate-resilient development in the right locations, and embedding adaptation across government policy.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure may help to support the NAP’s goals by reducing exposure to hazards, strengthening ecosystem resilience, and providing cost-effective, long-term protection against climate impacts. These actions may help maintain biodiversity, improve water quality, buffer communities against flooding and sea-level rise, and support nature-based solutions for adaptation.</p>	<p>MfE</p>
National Risk and Resilience Framework	<p>The National Risk and Resilience Framework aims to strengthen Aotearoa New Zealand’s ability to manage and respond to risks by providing a unified approach to risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery across government, businesses and communities.</p> <p>The objectives of the National Risk and Resilience Framework include the identification and understanding of risks, fostering shared responsibility for risk management, integrating risk and resilience into decision-making, and enhancing coordination across sectors. It seeks to build a culture of resilience by supporting proactive planning, encouraging investment in risk reduction, and ensuring that all parts of society work together to address current and future risks.</p> <p>Investing in resilience measures, such as natural infrastructure, will help to support Aotearoa New Zealand’s ability to withstand and recover from adverse events. Natural infrastructure may help to reduce the impacts of hazards, protect lives and livelihoods, and promote long-term wellbeing and sustainability for all New Zealanders.</p>	<p>DPMC</p>

10 NAP, p 10.

11 NAP, pp 13-14.

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
<p>New Zealand's Second Emissions Reduction Plan 2026-30</p>	<p>Aotearoa New Zealand's Second Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP2) sets out the Government's approach to meeting the second emissions budget for 2026–2030 and progressing towards the 2050 net zero target.¹² The Second Emissions Reduction Plan also aims to build resilience in infrastructure and communities, unlock renewable energy, foster nature-based solutions, and ensure the transition is equitable for businesses, communities, Māori, and households.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure will assist in achieving the ERP2's objectives by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing carbon sequestration • helping reduce net emissions • contributing to nature-based solutions for climate change. <p>Natural infrastructure may also deliver co-benefits by improving biodiversity, supporting water quality, and building resilience to climate impacts, while providing opportunities for community involvement and partnership with Māori. Such investment may be a cost-effective and scalable approach that complements technological solutions and supports the long-term goal of a thriving, low-emissions Aotearoa New Zealand.</p>	<p>MfE</p>
<p>Regional Infrastructure Fund</p>	<p>The Regional Infrastructure Fund is the Government's commitment to investing in and improving Aotearoa New Zealand's Regional Infrastructure.</p> <p>There are two main project categories for funding allocations: resilience infrastructure and enabling infrastructure. 'Resilience infrastructure projects', are projects that improve a region's ability to absorb, adapt, and/or respond to stresses and shocks.</p> <p>Many forms of natural infrastructure are likely to be consistent with the sorts of activities that are encouraged and financially supported by the fund. Mainstreaming natural infrastructure may reduce the need for reliance on specific Government funding arrangements to encourage such investments.</p>	<p>Kānoa (Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit)</p>

POLICY	SUMMARY	RESPONSIBLE
Resilience Strategy for Natural Hazard Risk Reduction 2024 to 2029	<p>The Aotearoa New Zealand Resilience Strategy for Natural Hazard Risk Reduction 2024 to 2029 sets out the resilience vision for Aotearoa New Zealand, priorities and guiding principles.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure assists in achieving the Resilience Strategy for Natural Hazard Risk Reduction by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing hazard exposure and impact - for example, Wetlands, floodplains, and riparian planting absorb and slow floodwaters, reducing the risk and severity of flooding to communities and infrastructure • Enhancing adaptive capacity and recovery – for example natural infrastructure may often recover or regenerate after hazard events, providing ongoing protection and reducing the need for expensive repairs • supporting risk reduction across multiple hazards – for example a single investment in natural infrastructure (e.g., wetland restoration) may reduce risks from floods, droughts, and even wildfires, providing broad resilience benefits. 	<p>Natural Hazards Commission</p>
Te Mana o te Taiao – Biodiversity Strategy	<p>The Te Mana o te Taiao – Biodiversity Strategy aims to protect, restore and enhance Aotearoa New Zealand’s unique indigenous biodiversity across land, freshwater, and marine environments for the benefit of current and future generations.¹³</p> <p>The objectives of Te Mana o te Taiao include establishing a clear and collaborative national direction for biodiversity protection, restoration and sustainable use; placing the Treaty partnership at the centre of biodiversity work; empowering action by all New Zealanders; and ensuring that biodiversity underpins wellbeing, culture and prosperity.</p> <p>The Strategy seeks to halt the decline of native species and ecosystems, support mātauranga Māori and kaitiakitanga, strengthen the regulatory and knowledge systems, and mobilise collective action. It also aims to contribute to national and international biodiversity targets and climate change resilience.</p> <p>Investing in natural infrastructure will assist in achieving the objectives of the Te Mana o te Taiao – Biodiversity Strategy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping to improve ecosystem health (through biodiversity initiatives such as habitat restoration) • supporting the regeneration of mātauranga Māori • helping to build resilience to climate change • helping to ensure the long-term survival of Aotearoa New Zealand’s flora and fauna. 	<p>DoC</p>

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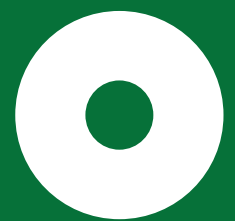


The Natural Infrastructure Plan, including its associated separate parts, have been prepared by The Aotearoa Circle in collaboration and consultation with Circle Partners and other key stakeholders to stimulate discussion, improve understanding and support consideration of nature as critical national infrastructure. The plan reflects the views at the time of publication and is intended for general information purposes only.

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4 March 2026

The Aotearoa Circle



**The
Aotearoa
Circle**

**Mā te Kaitiakitanga
ko te Tōnuītanga**
Prosperity Through
Guardianship

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