



Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

MP for Nelson

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Building and Housing

25 February 2016

Public consultation on the Next Steps for Freshwater Reform 2016

We are pleased to announce the start of public consultation on the Next Steps for Freshwater Reform. Since 2009, the Government has been undertaking a comprehensive set of reforms to improve the way we manage fresh water in New Zealand. As part of that, increased guidance and direction has been provided to local authorities, including the water take measuring regulations and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014. It is pleasing to note that councils are well on the way to implementing them.

This next stage of the reforms will build on what we have already put in place. The reforms are a result of a lot of work between the Government, iwi leaders and the Land and Water Forum. The consultation is focusing on the following key areas:

- amending the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management to improve national direction
- excluding stock from water bodies through regulation
- requiring more efficient use of fresh water and good management practice
- considering iwi rights and interests in fresh water
- setting up the "Next Steps for Freshwater Improvement Fund" to further improve water quality

Public meetings and hui will be held across the country next month. We intend to be at most of these meetings if we can and we would welcome the opportunity to hear your views on the proposals. Local authorities are at the forefront of managing freshwater and it is important that you are able to contribute to the proposals.

The Government is consulting through to 22 April. Further information, including how to submit on the reforms and the locations of public meetings, can be found at www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/next-steps-fresh-water

We look forward to your participation in these reforms.

Yours sincerely

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister for the Environment

Hon Nathan Guy
Minister for Primary Industries