



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Dr Megan Woods	Portfolio	Energy and Resources
Title of Cabinet paper	Strengthening National Direction on Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission	Date to be published	11 May 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
February 2023	Strengthening National Direction on Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission	Office of the Minister of Energy and Resources
8 February 2023	Strengthening National Direction on Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission CAB-23-MIN-0012.01 Minute	Cabinet Office
27 March 2023	Additional Item: Strengthening National Direction for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission: Consultation Document CAB-23-MIN-0104 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's and MfE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of confidential advice to government, legal professional privilege, and free and frank advice.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Additional Item: Strengthening National Direction for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission: Consultation Document

Portfolio **Energy and Resources**

On 27 March 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that Cabinet agreed on 8 February 2023 to release the consultation document *Strengthening National Direction on Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission* (the consultation document) and that the preferred option would include providing policy direction for Renewable Electricity Generation (REG) and Electricity Transmission (ET) projects in the coastal environment [CAB-23-MIN-0013.01];
- 2 **noted** Crown Law has subsequently advised that implementing the preferred option would require an amendment to the Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS);
- 3 **noted** the Minister of Conservation is the decision-maker on the NZCPS and would need to consult on a proposed consenting pathway for the NPS-REG and NPS-ET that conflicted with the NZCPS, and that this consultation would likely be contentious;
- 4 **agreed** that the policy intent of ensuring an efficient consenting regime for REG and ET in all areas including the coastal environment remains;
- 5 **agreed** that the consultation document not include a targeted amendment to the NZCPS, but seek views on the extent that consenting in the coastal environment is an issue for developers and signal the intent to deal with these issues through the National Planning Framework;
- 6 **noted** that the proposed National Policy Statements will provide that REG and ET are prioritised in all other areas and will specifically deal with the key issues for developers of biodiversity, significant natural areas, and landscapes and amenity values;
- 7 **noted** the NPF to be developed under the Natural and Built Environments Act will include national direction on infrastructure that is also enabling of renewable energy and transmission;
- 8 **agreed** for the consultation document to seek feedback in respect of how onshore REG and ET in the coastal environment could better provide for the operation, maintenance, and upgrade of existing transmission activities in the coastal environment;

- 9 **noted** the consultation document will signal that, in respect of offshore REG and ET, the government intends to consider the consenting regime separately and will look at appropriate consenting policies that would apply in both the exclusive economic zone and territorial sea;
- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Energy and Resources and the Minister for the Environment to make further detailed changes to the consultation document in keeping with the decisions in the minute under CAB-23-MIN-0104.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet