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**MINUTE 6 OF THE EXPERT PANEL**  
**Request for Information – National Policy Direction**  
**Arataki [FTAA-2506-1083]**  
**(19 December 2025)**

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[1] Yesterday, on 18 December 2025, the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) announced that ten (10) national direction instruments were approved by the Governor-General on 15 December 2025, as follows:

- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) Regulations 2025
- National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025
- National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land Amendment 2025
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Amendment 2025
- National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity Amendment 2025
- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management Amendment 2025
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Amendment Regulations 2025
- National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation Amendment 2025
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Amendment 2025.

[2] Three of these instruments are new, and seven have been amended. These documents will come into force on 15 January 2026.

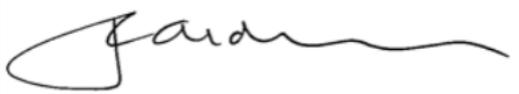
[3] The Panel is currently drafting its decision on the Arataki Project Application and requires urgent advice from the Applicant regarding the application of these instruments to the assessment and evaluation tasks it must undertake pursuant to the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**).

[4] Pursuant to section 67 of the FTAA, the Panel requests a planning and/or legal

memorandum:

- (a) Confirming the extent to which any of the new or amended national direction instruments raise additional matters for assessment of resource consent approvals sought under the FTAA; and
- (b) Undertaking a brief assessment of the impact of such matters on the Application and the Panel's evaluation task.

[5] This further information is to be provided to the EPA by 5pm on **14 January 2026**. If the Applicant considers that processing of the Application should be suspended, beyond the statutory pause that takes effect from 20 December to 10 January, to enable it to provide this information, the Panel would be grateful to receive a suspension request by 5pm on Monday 22 December 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Caldwell', is written over a thin horizontal line.

Jennifer Caldwell  
Arataki Expert Panel Chair