

# Your submission to Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land

Christchurch  
Canterbury  
New Zealand

## Reference no: 59

### Clause

Do you support the scope of the proposal to focus on land use planning issues affecting highly productive land? Why/why not?

### Notes

Yes. As our population increases and places more pressure on the land for housing, particularly around existing population centres, we will need to provide more food. Local food production reduces emissions associated with transporting food. Also, productive soils require less intensive inputs for a given amount of production compared with poorer soils, and are therefore likely to be associated with lower greenhouse gas emissions. With climate change effects areas of highly productive land will be more resilient with soils that are more tolerant of dry or wet conditions. For these reasons it is important that the value of these soils to society is given due weight in planning decisions.

### Clause

Should future urban zones and future urban areas be excluded from the scope of the National Policy Statement? What are the potential benefits and costs?

### Notes

No. The design of areas with highly productive soils already zoned for future development could take the soils into account, for example minimising roadways using areas of communal parking so that larger communal areas can be accommodated which could be earmarked for a community garden.

### Clause

Are the proposed criteria all relevant and important considerations for identifying highly productive land? Why/why not?

### Notes

Clause f) (p.39) is an important constraint at present, but in time catchments with water quality issues can be restored. Protecting highly productive land for future generations is important and current/temporary constraints need to be considered with a long-term perspective. In some catchments, a shift to different types of production may be part of a solution to water quality/quantity issues and highly productive land could offer opportunities for that shift.

**You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.**