

# RMA reform: proposed replacement

## Replacement RMA

Both plans must assist local authorities to achieve the purpose and principles of the Act and give effect to national direction under it

**Combined plans**  
Purpose: Same as current for regional policy statements, regional plans, regional coastal plans and district plans under the RMA

**Spatial plans**  
Purpose: To contribute to a region's social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being through a long term 20-30-year growth strategy

Sets out the provisions needed to assist local authorities to manage the built environment in the region, including protected places

Describes a high-level development and growth strategy, including existing and future locations of:

- residential, business, rural production and industrial activities
- critical infrastructure, services, and investment

Combined plans must be consistent with the growth strategy set out in the spatial plan

Built environment

Built environment

**Local structure plans**  
Purpose: Place making – i.e. maintenance and enhancement of the features that contribute to local character, like tree protection and urban design rules

Specifies who will be responsible for providing infrastructure and services, and when

Shows 'no-go areas' as determined under the combined plans

Natural environment

Natural environment

Sets out the provisions needed to assist local authorities to manage the natural environment in the region, including protected places

Spatial plans must show any protected places that are shown in combined plans

Reflects limits set by national direction and combined plans

Both plans must be also consistent with the below pieces of legislation, but the replacement RMA takes precedence if they cannot be reconciled

Local Government Act 2002, Land Transport Management Act 2003, Climate Change Response Act 2002