

Hon Chris Bishop

Attorney-General
Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Associate Minister of Finance



29 APR 2026

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Rt. Hon Simon Upton
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
By email: [c/- geoff.simmons@pce.parliament.nz](mailto:c/-geoff.simmons@pce.parliament.nz)

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your letter of 20 April 2026 about the importance of avoiding the fragmentation of catchment management in the Simplifying Local Government (SLG) work programme. I also acknowledge your earlier correspondence from January, which has informed officials' development of next steps.

Like you, I recognise that catchment management is a critical function currently delivered by regional councils. The Government's SLG proposal was clear that any reorganisations must identify the best way the councils could work together to deliver effective and efficient services and functions across the region. This requirement would apply to catchment management.

Submissions on the proposal have now closed and the Government is considering next steps. In light of the feedback from you and other groups, you can be confident that we will consider ways to ensure the appropriate guardrails are in place to avoid fragmented catchment management in any reorganisation of local government.

Thank you for your correspondence on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

Cc: Hon Nicola Willis, Minister of Finance
Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Local Government

*Look forward to
catching up
soon.*