

National Environmental Standards

Overview

National Environmental Standards (NESs) are prepared by central government and can prescribe technical standards, methods (including rules) and/or other requirement for environmental matters throughout the whole country or specific areas. If an activity doesn't comply with an NES, it is likely to require a resource consent. NESs must be observed and enforced by local authorities.

The following NESs are currently in force:

- [Resource Management \(National Environmental Standard on Plantation Forestry\) Regulations 2017](#)
- [Resource Management \(National Environmental Standard for Telecommunication Facilities\) Regulations 2008](#)
- [Resource Management \(National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health\) Regulations 2011](#)
- [Resource Management \(National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities\) Regulations 2009](#)
- [Resource Management \(National Environmental Standard for Sources of Drinking Water\) Regulations 2007](#)
- [Resource Management \(National Environmental Standards for Air Quality\) Regulations 2004 \(amended 2011\)](#)
- [Resource Management \(National Standard for Freshwater\) Regulations 2020](#)