

LEGISLATION TRACKER

As at 21 August 2026



What is the legislation tracker?

This document records the known and anticipated future legislation with some direct impact on the local government sector. Legislation is classified into three categories:

- in the final stages of the Parliamentary process (red) - the Bill has passed the point where public submissions or other action can influence the final design of legislation (i.e. we define this point as having been reached when the Bill is reported from the Select Committee. It is unusual for Parliament to accept an amendment in the Committee of the House stage that is not promoted by the Government)
- live for submissions (white) – legislation is on the Parliamentary Order paper and is either open for submission or awaits a referral to the Select Committee
- upcoming (green) - legislation has been signalled in coalition agreements or Ministerial statements, etc. In noted instances, some items may be speculative based on staff assessment of what would be required to give effect to a policy commitment.

If you are aware of a piece of legislation that is missing from the tracker or a detail that needs amendment or amplification, please contact Raymond Horan at raymond.horan@taituara.org.nz.

Changes this month

There are currently 25 Bills in the tracker.

One Bill has been added to the tracker this month: the Health Act (Offensive Trades) Amendment Bill.

The following bills have left the tracker this month: the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Amendment Bill (received royal assent on 4 August 2026) and the Climate Change Response (Tort Liability) Amendment Bill (completed the Parliamentary process on 18 August 2026)

Local Government Systems Improvements Bill Government Bill Introduced 17 July 2025	Gives effect to proposed change of purpose of local government and performance comparisons. There are also several minor items of regulatory relief.	Awaiting Committee of the Whole House stage.	No further action proposed.
Land Transport (Revenue) Amendment Bill. Government Bill Introduced 13 November.	Introduces new tolling options and other changes to the tolling process. Also makes amendments to clear the way for the movement from fuel excise to roaduser charges for light vehicles	Awaiting Committee of the Whole House stage.	No further action proposed.
Emergency Management Bill (No 2) Government Bill Introduced 9 December	The Government will implement a programme of changes in five broad areas: • Give effect to the whole-of-society approach to emergency management. • Support and enable local government to deliver a consistent minimum standard of emergency management across New Zealand. • Professionalise and build the capability and capacity of the emergency management workforce.	Awaiting Committee of the Whole House stage.	No further action proposed.

	• Enable the different parts of the system to work better together. • Drive a strategic focus on implementation and investment to ensure delivery.		
Building (Earthquake Prone Buildings) Amendment Bill Government Bill 9 December 2025	Establishes a more proportionate and risk based system for managing earthquake prone buildings.	Awaiting Committee of the Whole House stage.	No action proposed
Public Works Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced 24 November	Bill to implement results of the wider PWA review.	Awaiting second reading – Select Committee reported back on 7 May.	No action.
Data and Statistics (Census) Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced	Provides for an annual Census from 2030 (Census to be based on administrative data)	Awaiting second reading,	No action.
Natural Environment Bill Government Bill Introduced 9 December	A new act to manage environmental effects that arise from the use of natural resources.	Awaiting second reading - Select Committee reported on 20 July.	No action planned.
Planning Bill Government Bill	Bill to enable urban development and infrastructure. This act will also be aligned with the Government's Going for Housing Growth plan and	Awaiting second reading – Select Committee reported on 20 July.	No further action proposed.

Introduced 9 December	its 30-year National Infrastructure Plan.		
Valuers Bill Government Bill Introduced 14 May 2025	Modernises the Registration of Valuers Act	Awaiting second reading. Note – as a revision Bill there is no Committee of House Stage, and no debate at third reading.	No action – Bill modernises legislation but makes no policy change.
Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Improving Alcohol Regulation) Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced 16 March	Amends the legislation to “improve regulation and promote economic development” (i.e make alcohol more accessible).	Referred to the Justice Committee. Submissions closed. Report due 2 October.	No action.
Hazard Substances and New Organisms Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced 12 May	Amends the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 to streamline and improve application processes and pathways, support risk-proportionate decision-making and public participation, and enhance compliance, monitoring, and enforcement under the Act	Primary Production Select Committee to report by 17 September.	No action.
Better Regional Boundaries Bill Members’ Bill Introduced 30 April	Bill would require government agencies to review their boundaries and align with territorial authority boundaries within five years.	Governance and Administration Select Committee to report by 21 September.	Submitted in favour.

Conservation Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced 7 May	This bill amends the Conservation Act 1987 to streamline the management of land, better enable appropriate use of conservation land, and support more effective administration of conservation land..	Referred to the Environment Select Committee. Report due 12 November.	No action.
Local Government (Port Companies Accountability) Amendment Bill Members' Bill Introduced 22 May 2025	Reverses the exclusion of port companies from LGOIMA, good employer obligations, and having to have regard to the interests of the community in which they operate.	Referred to Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee. Report due 20 November.	No action.
Environmental Reporting Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced 23 June 2026.	Bill amends the Environmental Reporting Act 2015. The Bill clarifies the intended use and outcomes of reporting, reduces the frequency of synthesis reports, strengthens mechanisms for data collection and adds drivers and outlooks as required components of environmental reports.	Referred to Environment Select Committee. Report due 30 December.	No action
Local Government (Management of Local Authorities) Amendment Bill Private Members Bill	Bill provides the governing body of the local authority must direct or supervise the CE's management of the local authority, and that the governing body has all powers necessary to do so.	Referred to the Governance Select Committee. Submissions due on 18 September.	Submit

Building Act Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced 30 June 2026.	More comprehensive changes to building consenting making it easier for private BCAs, address barriers to voluntary consolidation, national consenting body, ensuring national consistency, strengthening roles and responsibilities, new consent pathway for commercial buildings, new assurance pathways more self certification – further streamlining, risk and liability.	Referred to Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee. Submissions due 15 November	Submit
Climate Change Response Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced 15 July 2026	Makes targeted policy changes to the principal Act including an obligation on local authorities to undertake adaptation planning in priority locations.	Referred to Environment Select Committee. No date for submissions as of time of writing.	Submit
Te Ture Whenua Māori Amendment Bill Government Bill	Amends Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 to “better enable Māori economic development”.	Announced in the release of the Quarter One 2025 Action Plan. <u>Speculative</u> – this may include changes to the Rating Act	Submit if extends to Rating Act, otherwise no action.
Local Government (Infrastructure Funding and Financing) Amendment Bill Government Bill	Bill will replace development contributions with a system of development levies. Possible changes to targeted rates.	Announcements to be made in August.	Submit with ‘in principle’ support

Health Act 1956 (Offensive Trades) Amendment Act (<u>Title Speculative</u>) Government Bill	Removes the requirement for annual registration of people undertaking an offensive trade.	Unclear. Announced by Ministers Brown and Seymour on 14 August 2026.	To be determined
Biosecurity Amendment Bill Government Bill	Bill to give effect to any policy decisions to modernise this legislation. Consultation closed December 2024.	2026?	To be determined
Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill (Rate capping) (title TBC)	Bill to give effect to policy decisions around rate-capping, and potentially other items from the 'forward work programme'.	Policy announcements on 1 December. Legislation expected in August 2026.	Submit.
Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill (Head start TBC)	Bill to give effect to policy decisions around simplifying LG, including the establishment of a Head Start pathway for reform.	Head start announcements made on 5 May, initial proposals for Head Start required by 9 August. Legislation not expected until May 2027 (source: Head Start document).	Submit.
Waste Management Bill	<u>Speculative</u> – implementing the conclusions of the 2023 consultation on waste management (also apparently the current consultation).	Not clear how fast this is progressing within MFE.	Submit if and when it comes.

