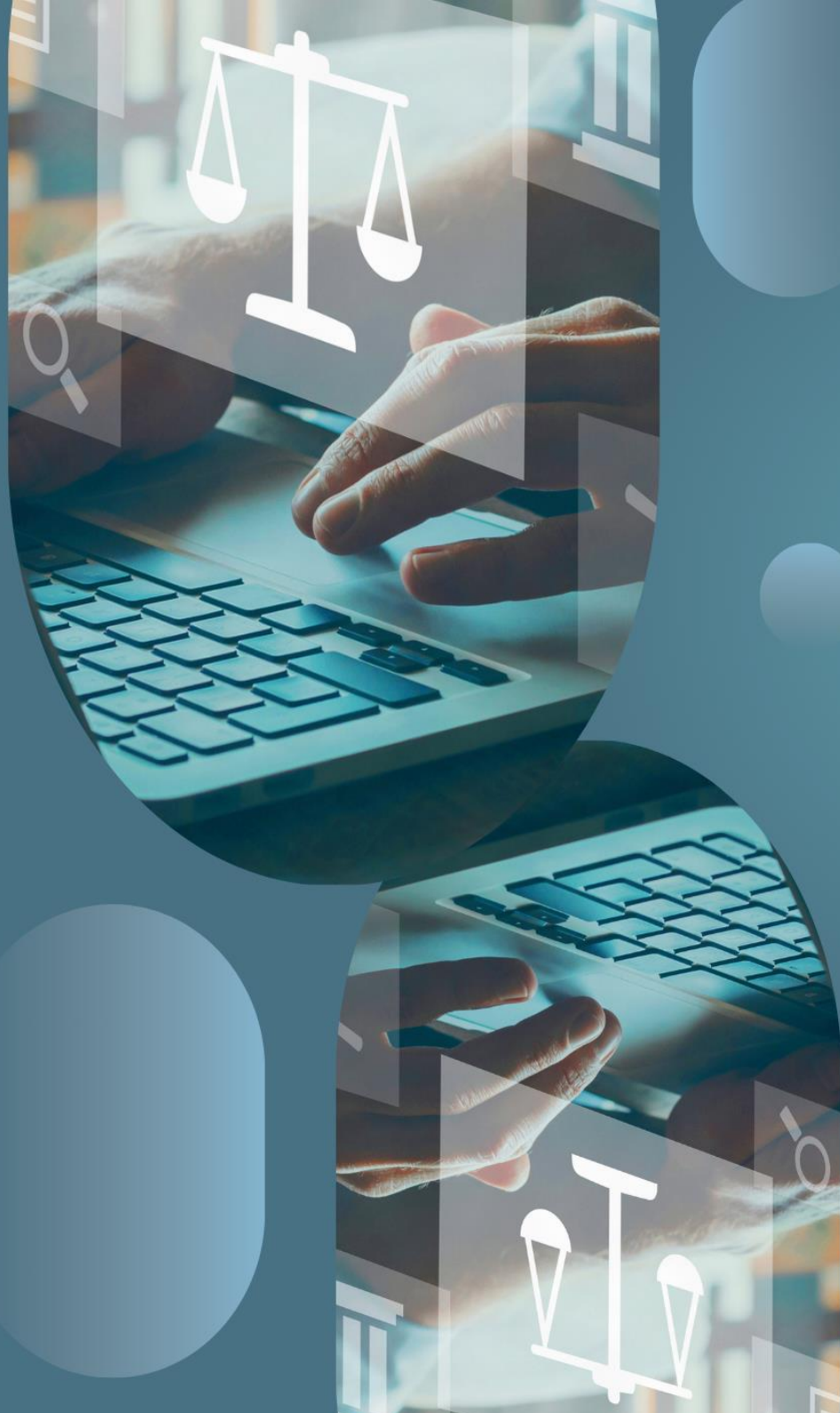


LEGISLATION TRACKER

As at 21 May 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 26 Bills in the tracker. Additions and amendments from the April edition are marked in yellow.

Three Bills have been added to the tracker. These are the Conservation Amendment Bill (open for submissions), the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Amendment Bill (open for submissions), and the Better Regional Boundaries Bill (a member's bill awaiting a first reading).

No Bills have left the tracker this month.

Bill	Description	Status in Parliament	Proposed Taituarā Action
Anti-social Road Use Legislation Bill	Increases penalties for various activities regarded as anti-social.	Awaiting third reading.	No action
Regulatory Systems (Internal Affairs) Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced July 2025	Omnibus Bill amending various statutes administered by the Department of Internal Affairs. Includes a provision that lifts the cap for the contracting rule under the Member's Interest Act.	Awaiting Committee of the House stage.	No further action proposed.
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.
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 second reading.	No further action proposed.
Building and Construction Sector (Self Certification by Plumbers and Drainlayers) Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced 15 November	Speeds up the construction of new homes by reducing the number of inspections that must be completed for plumbing and drainlaying work.	Awaiting second reading	No action.

Bill	Description	Status in Parliament	Proposed Taituarā Action
Public Works Amendment Bill (Previously listed as the Public Works Act Amendment Bill #2) 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 – Bill given low priority by President and Vice-Presidents.
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	Referred to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee. Report due 18 May.	Submitted. No further action proposed.
Emergency Management Bill Government Bill Introduced 9 December	The Government will implement a programme of changes in five broad areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Referred to the Governance and Administration Committee. Report due 9 June.	Submitted. No further action proposed.

Bill	Description	Status in Parliament	Proposed Taituarā Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professionalise and build the capability and capacity of the emergency management workforce. Enable the different parts of the system to work better together. Drive a strategic focus on implementation and investment to ensure delivery. 		
<p>Infrastructure Funding and Financing Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced 26 November</p>	<p>Would implement refinements to the legislation for special-purpose vehicles.</p>	<p>Referred to the Finance and Expenditure Committee. Report due 9 June.</p>	<p>No action proposed</p>
<p>Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill</p>	<p>This Bill is intended to reduce compliance costs and provide greater certainty for organisations.</p>	<p>Referred to the Education and Workforce Select Committee. Report due 13 June.</p>	<p>No action proposed.</p>
<p>Natural and Environment Bill Government Bill Introduced 9 December</p>	<p>A new act to manage environmental effects that arise from the use of natural resources.</p>	<p>Referred to the Environment Committee. Report due 26 June.</p>	<p>No action planned.</p>
<p>Planning Bill Government Bill Introduced 9 December</p>	<p>Bill to enable urban development and infrastructure. This act will also be aligned with the Government's Going for Housing Growth plan and</p>	<p>Referred to the Environment Committee. Report due 26 June.</p>	<p>No further action proposed.</p>

Bill	Description	Status in Parliament	Proposed Taituarā Action
	its 30-year National Infrastructure Plan.		
Data and Statistics (Census) Amendment Bill Government Bill Introduced	Provides for an annual Census from 2030 (Census to be based on administrative data)	Referred to the Justice Committee. Report due 17 July.	No action.
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.
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. (there has been some comment that this Bill enables the sell-off of conservation land).	Referred to the Environment Select Committee. No date for submissions set as of time of writing.	Unlikely to submit. Local authorities may have views on the impact of potential sales of conservation land.
Hazard Substances and New Organisms Amendment Bill	Amends the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 to streamline and improve application	Referred to the Primary Production Select Committee. Submissions due 15 June 2026.	To be determined

Bill	Description	Status in Parliament	Proposed Taituarā Action
<p>Government Bill</p> <p>Introduced 12 May</p>	<p>processes and pathways, support risk-proportionate decision-making and public participation, and enhance compliance, monitoring, and enforcement under the Act</p>		
<p>Local Government (Port Companies Accountability) Amendment Bill</p> <p>Members' Bill</p> <p>Introduced 22 May 2025</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>First reading on 20 May. Referred to Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee,</p>	<p>To be determined</p>
<p>Better Regional Boundaries Bill</p> <p>Members' Bill</p> <p>Introduced 30 April</p>	<p>Bill would require government agencies to review their boundaries and align with territorial authority boundaries within five years.</p>	<p>First reading on 20 May. Referred to Governance and Administration Select Committee.</p>	<p>To be determined. Unclear what the practical effects of this are (especially with recent Head Start announcements).</p>
<p>Te Ture Whenua Māori Amendment Bill</p> <p>Government Bill</p>	<p>Amends Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 to "better enable Māori economic development".</p>	<p>Announced in the release of the Quarter One 2025 Action Plan. Policy decisions in the first quarter and legislation late 2025.</p> <p>Speculative – this may include changes to the Rating Act</p>	<p>Submit if extends to Rating Act, otherwise no action.</p>

Bill	Description	Status in Parliament	Proposed Taituarā Action
Climate Change Response Act (Efficiency and Effectiveness) Amendment Bill - formerly expecting a specific Climate Adaptation Bill	Bill sets the legal framework for powers and responsibilities with respect to climate adaptation.	Now expected early 2026.	Submit when it comes.
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.	Currently consulting on an exposure draft – due 20 February. Expected in the third quarter of 2026.	Submit with 'in principle' support
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
Building Act Amendment Bill Government Bill	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.	Third quarter 2026.	Submit

Bill	Description	Status in Parliament	Proposed Taituarā Action
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 not expected until the third quarter of 2026.	Submit.
Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill (Structural reform) (title or titlesTBC)	Bill to give effect to policy decisions around simplifying LG, including the establishment of a Head Start pathway for reform, and a process for those not taking a Head Start option.	Head start announcements made on 5 May, initial proposals for Head Start required by 9 August. Legislation not expected until May 2027. Speculative – may be two Bills, one for Head Start and one for the rest.	Submit.
Waste Management Bill	Speculative – 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.

