

# Topics for environmental reporting

## SUBMISSION FORM

The Government is seeking views on which topics will be reported on in environmental reports. Topics identify the things we want to know about the environment for each of the five environmental domains we report on (air, atmosphere and climate, fresh water, land, and marine).

This consultation will help the Minister for the Environment and the Minister of Statistics decide which topics to include in regulations under the Environmental Reporting Act 2015.

This is your chance to help shape how we establish a reporting system that is useful to New Zealanders.

You can have your say by making a submission using this form or using the online form available at [www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/consultations).

For more information about this consultation read our [Topics for Environmental Reporting Consultation Document](#). It includes a background to what we considered when developing the list of proposed topics, and explanations to help you understand what the topics could cover.

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 23 December 2015.**

## Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters), may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz). Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

## Questions to guide your feedback

The questions below are a guide only, and all comments on topics are welcome.

To ensure your point of view is clearly understood, please explain your rationale.

Please note submissions on how topics should be measured are not being consulted on as this is decided by the Government Statistician.

### Contact information

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- 1. Does the proposed topic list in table 2 of the consultation document cover the significant areas that we should be reporting on for the following areas? Are there any other significant areas we should be reporting on? Why?**

**Note: Table 2 is included at the end of this form.**

- a. Our environment overall**
  - b. The air domain**
  - c. The atmosphere and climate domain**
  - d. The freshwater domain**
  - e. The land domain**
  - f. The marine domain**
- 2. Do you think there are any topics that shouldn't be included or should be changed? Which topics? Why?**
  - 3. Do you have any further information or comments about the proposed topics you wish the Government to consider?**

Freshwater Pressures from Management and Resource Use: Should include a measure of water use efficiency. Possible measures include water loss, ML/\$'s economic output produced, or per capita water consumption.

Freshwater Pressures from Waste, litter and other human activities: Should include information on;

- point source discharges from wastewater treatment: including the receiving environment (either land discharge or direct), and level of treatment applied (either primary, secondary or tertiary)
- wastewater overflows from sewerage systems (including dry and wet weather overflows)
- any available data on stormwater discharges and treatment.

## When your submission is complete

Email your completed submission to [EnvironmentalReportingRegulations@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:EnvironmentalReportingRegulations@mfe.govt.nz) or post to Topics for Environmental Reporting Consultation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

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**Table 2 from consultation document: Proposed topics for domains**

Air topics		
<i>Pressures from</i>	<i>State of</i>	<i>Impacts (all domains)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>human activities</li> <li>climate and natural processes</li> <li>physical form of the land environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>air quality and concentrations of air pollutants.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ecological integrity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem processes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts on public health.</li> </ul> <p><b>The economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic impacts:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on industry and households<sup>1</sup></li> <li>on natural resource value, availability and use.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Te ao Māori</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mauri</li> <li>Matauranga</li> <li>Tikanga practice</li> <li>Customary use and kaitiakitanga</li> <li>Taonga species and mahinga kai</li> <li>Wāhi taonga and wāhi tapu</li> <li>Māori land use and cover (land domain only).</li> </ul> <p><b>Culture and recreation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts on culture and recreation and heritage.</li> </ul>
Atmosphere and climate topics		
<i>Pressures from</i>	<i>State of</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>natural pressures on climate and atmosphere</li> <li>greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>land cover and use</li> <li>ozone depleting substances emissions</li> <li>particulate matter emissions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>greenhouse gases</li> <li>climate variables, and how the climate is changing</li> <li>atmospheric ozone</li> <li>particulate matter</li> <li>atmospheric clarity</li> <li>UV intensity.</li> </ul>	
Freshwater topics		
<i>Pressures from</i>	<i>State of</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>management, resource use and other human activities</li> <li>waste, litter and other human activities</li> <li>climate and natural processes</li> <li>pests, diseases and exotic species</li> <li>physical form of the land and freshwater environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>freshwater species and genetic diversity</li> <li>freshwater habitats and sites of significance</li> <li>freshwater ecosystem processes</li> <li>freshwater quality, quantity and flows</li> <li>minerals and energy resources.</li> </ul>	
Land topics		
<i>Pressures from</i>	<i>State of</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>management, resource use and other human activities</li> <li>waste, litter and other human activities</li> <li>climate and natural processes</li> <li>pests, diseases and exotic species</li> <li>physical form of the land environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>land species and genetic diversity</li> <li>land cover, habitats and sites of significance</li> <li>land ecosystem processes</li> <li>land and soil condition and suitability for use</li> <li>minerals and energy resources.</li> </ul>	
Marine topics		
<i>Pressures from</i>	<i>State of</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>management, resource use and other human activities</li> <li>waste, litter and other human activities</li> <li>climate and natural processes</li> <li>pests, diseases and exotic species</li> <li>physical form of the marine environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>marine species and genetic diversity</li> <li>marine habitats and sites of significance</li> <li>marine ecosystem processes</li> <li>marine water quality and ocean acidity</li> <li>sea level, temperature and circulation</li> <li>minerals and energy resources.</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> Industry includes primary industry, goods-producing industry and service-providing industry.

- **Primary industry** is defined as agriculture, forestry and fishing (and services to agriculture, forestry, and fishing) and mining.
- The **goods-producing industry** grouping consists of the manufacturing; electricity, gas, water, and waste services; and construction industries.
- The **service-providing industry** grouping consists of wholesale trade; accommodation and food services; retail trade; transport, postal, and warehousing; information, media, and telecommunications; finance and insurance services; rental, hiring, and real estate services; professional, scientific, technical, and administrative support services; government administration (central and local) and defence; health; education; and other service industries.