

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

NEW ZEALAND

Commitment 6: Improving access to legislation

Date: March to May 2017

Lead agency: Parliamentary Counsel office (PCO)

To improve access to legislation by publishing all subordinate instruments (or regulations), regardless of who drafts them, on the New Zealand Legislation (NZL) website. The result will be a single, comprehensive, official, public source of all New Zealand's legislation.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

- The PCO is drafting a Bill to implement this project. This will involve a substantial re-write, and replacement, of the [Legislation Act 2012](#). We have begun consulting departments on the Bill, and this will be completed before August.
- We have developed a template for agencies to use when drafting secondary legislation. Secondary legislation is legislation made by Ministers, officials, or organisations, rather than directly by Parliament. Examples include most land transport rules, civil aviation rules, and a wide variety of other rules.
- The template will help ensure that the legislation contains a minimum set of information (the title, empowering Act and provision, date of commencement, the maker, the date of making, and the administering agency). It will encourage consistency and will assist in meeting the requirements of the revised Legislation Act.
- A team of legal researchers has been established. They have searched all provisions in legislation that empower secondary legislation to be made. This allows us to begin our engagement with key stakeholders. With thousands of pieces of secondary legislation made by more than 100 agencies, we have planned for a sizeable consultation period.
- Each consultation includes an analysis of the empowering provisions in the Acts that each agency administers.

LINKS

[List of agencies that can create regulations](#)

[Access to Subordinate Instruments Project news](#)

WHAT'S NEXT?

- We will continue to trial the template with a small group of agencies to test and refine it.

- We are investigating technology to enable legislation drafted in the template to be automatically converted into XML format so that it be published on the NZ Legislation website in much the same way as Acts of Parliament are now.