
Consultation on: Public Works (Critical Infrastructure) Amendment Bill

From: Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of NZ

To: Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee

Contact: Mark Ross, Chief Executive – mark@wpma.org.nz

Date: 13 June 2025

1. Submission

- 1.1 The Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of New Zealand (WPMA) is appreciative of the opportunity to provide feedback on the Public Works (Critical Infrastructure) Amendment Bill (the Bill).
- 1.2 As a general statement, we submit in support of the Bill proceeding. Particularly important to WPMA is the need to develop much-needed infrastructure, such as roads of National Significance, in a timely manner.

2. Key points are highlighted as follows:

- 2.1 WPMA understands that this Bill is necessary to ensure that a narrow range of projects listed in Schedule 2 of the Fast-track Approvals Act and roads of National Significance can be progressed under urgency, which we support.
- 2.2 Our industry is reliant on roading and other infrastructure as a means of transporting logs from the forests to the mills, and then to ports or other destination once the logs have been processed into high-value wood products. Hence, transport and roads are an important factor in business decisions and competitiveness. An efficient roading system that supports the supply chain is a critical part of developing the competitiveness of the wood processing and manufacturing industry.
- 2.3 When building new infrastructure, it is important that to ensure a fair process is implemented where property is taken in the public interest, there needs to be the presumption that adequate and fair compensation is offered to affected parties. At the same time a quick process for the resolution of disputes is required so decisions are not dragged out in long and costly litigation through the Courts.
- 2.4 On the more detailed aspects of the land acquisition process related to the Bill we are in support of the BusinessNZ submission.

3. Conclusion

3.1 WPMA is in support of the policy objective of this Bill as a means to streamline the land acquisition process under the Public Works Act 1981 for critical infrastructure projects listed in *new Schedule 2A* in *Schedule 2* of the Bill, with the provision that fair and adequate compensation will be offered to the affected parties.

The Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association

About us:

The Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association (WPMA) was established in 2014 through a merger of the Wood Processors Association and the Pine Manufacturer's Association. We are a voluntary funded industry association with a strong focus on promoting wood as the heart of a future zero-carbon economy.

Our members are leaders in the New Zealand wood industry converting harvested logs into a wide range of products including sawn lumber, pulp, paper, panels, laminated products, mouldings, and engineered wood, through to the development of bioenergy solutions.

Total sales of industry products both domestically and globally in 2023 were approximately \$5 billion. The industry employs close to 30,000 staff, mostly in the New Zealand regions.

<https://www.wpma.org.nz/>

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