



# Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Legislative Changes to Support a Single Point of Online Access to Legislation

Portfolio                      Attorney-General

On 7 November 2024, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1        **noted** that:
  - 1.1      the inaccessibility of a large portion of secondary legislation (e.g. rules, notices, bylaws etc.) is a significant weakness in New Zealand’s current legislative system;
  - 1.2      in November 2016, Cabinet Committee on State Sector Reform and Expenditure Control agreed that the preferred solution to this problem was for all New Zealand legislation to be published by the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) on the New Zealand Legislation (NZL) website, unless exempt (centralised publication) [SEC-16-MIN-0055];
  - 1.3      Parliament enacted legislation in 2019 and 2021 to give effect to centralised publication, which will come into force from March 2026 unless repealed;
- 2        **noted** that further analysis has identified several challenges with centralised publication, including, significantly, its risks, complexity, and costs for the PCO and administering agencies, all of which are currently unfunded;
- 3        **agreed** that the Government’s preferred solution to the problem described in paragraph 1.1 above is for the NZL website to become a ‘single point of online access’ to New Zealand legislation, under which:
  - 3.1      administering agencies continue to publish secondary legislation that they draft in accordance with legal and best practice requirements (decentralised publication);
  - 3.2      the PCO uses a technology solution to identify, aggregate, index and link that secondary legislation on the NZL website;
  - 3.3      subject to resources, the PCO develops the NZL website into a central hub for legislation-related information, including aggregation of local government legislation and other instruments on the NZL website;
- 4        **agreed** to rescind the decision referred to in paragraph 1.2 above;

- 5 **agreed** to make the necessary and desirable changes to legislation to give effect to the decision in paragraph 3 above and to ensure a smooth transition to the new system, including as described in the paper under LEG-24-SUB-0220;
- 6 **agreed** to provide for regulations to be made under the Legislation Act 2019 setting fees for PCO services relating to publication, notification and presentation and for the possibility of club funding for the PCO's publication, access and stewardship (but not drafting) functions in the future;
- 7 **agreed** to make changes to the Legislation Act 2019 and related provisions to keep the legislative system up to date and fit for purpose, including as described in the paper under LEG-24-SUB-0220;
- 8 **agreed** that repeals or revocations of spent legislation with such savings and other mechanisms as may be appropriate, or minor editorial changes to legislation, may be included in the amendment Bill referred to below or in any other suitable legislative vehicle;
- 9 **authorised** the Attorney-General to clarify and develop policy matters relating to the proposals in this paper in a manner not inconsistent with these decisions;
- 10 **noted** that the Legislation Amendment Bill has a priority category 6 on the 2024 Legislation Programme (drafting instructions to be issued by the end of 2024);
- 11 **authorised** the Attorney-General to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to implement the above decisions.

Tom Kelly  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Simeon Brown (Chair)  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Melissa Lee  
Hon Andrew Bayly  
Hon Scott Simpson, MP  
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for LEG  
Leader of the House's Office