

Auckland Unitary Plan and Auckland Council District Plan - Hauraki Gulf Islands Section

Status of Auckland Council plan changes under section 80Y of the Resource Management Act 1991

Auckland Council applied to the Minister for the Environment under section 80V of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for exemptions from the requirement to withdraw a proposed planning instrument in relation to the following notified plan changes:

1. Plan Change 96: Open Space and Other Rezoning Matters (2024) Exemption Approved
2. Plan Change 116: Amendments to Schedule 14 Historic Heritage Schedule Exemption Approved
3. Plan Modification 16: Helipads (Hauraki Gulf Islands District Plan) Exemption Approved
4. Plan Change 113: Additions to Schedule 10 - Notable Trees Schedule (PC113) Exemption Declined

The decisions on the Council's applications were made by the Minister for Resource Management Reform (Minister). The Council understands the Minister was exercising the powers of the Minister for the Environment in reliance on section 7 of the Constitution Act 1986.

Where exemptions have been approved by the Minister, these plan changes will continue.

As the application for exemption for PC113 was declined by the Minister on 23 November 2025, PC113 was withdrawn on 12 December 2025 in accordance with the requirement in section 80X(1) of the RMA.

Auckland Council has applied to the Minister for the Environment under s80V of the RMA for exemptions from the prohibition against notifying a draft planning instrument in relation to the following plan changes:

1. Draft Plan Change: Onsite Wastewater
2. Draft Plan Change: Sites and Places of Significance to Mana Whenua - Tranche 2B
3. Draft Plan Modification: Helipads as a prohibited activity in residential and settlement areas (Auckland Council District Plan - Hauraki Gulf Islands Section)

The council is awaiting decisions from the Minister for the Environment in relation to these exemption applications.

Automatic exemption

Auckland Council considers that Plan Change 120: Housing Intensification and Resilience is automatically exempt under s80U(1) and 80U(2)(a) of the RMA, as a proposed planning instrument using the streamlined planning process.

Dated: 15 January 2026

John Duguid

