

Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee

Via email: ti@parliament.govt.nz

12 June 2025

Re. Public Works (Critical Infrastructure) Amendment Bill

About Property Council New Zealand

As you may know, Property Council is the leading not-for-profit advocate for New Zealand's most significant industry, property. Property is New Zealand's largest industry with a direct contribution to GDP of \$50.2 billion (15 percent).

The property sector shapes New Zealand's social, economic and environmental fabric. Property Council advocates for the creation and retention of a well-designed, functional and sustainable built environment, in order to contribute to the overall prosperity and well-being of New Zealand.

We are writing to provide comment on the Public Works (Critical Infrastructure) Amendment Bill ("the Bill"). Property Council supports the Bill's objective to streamline the land acquisition process under the Public Works Act 1981 for infrastructure projects listed in Schedule 2 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 and Roads of National Significance.

Streamlined objection process

The Bill looks to reduce procedural delays by providing property owners the ability to object directly to the relevant decision maker (Minister for Land Information or local authority), rather than in the Environment Court. Decision makers must consider the same matters that the Environment Court would consider before issuing a Notice of Intention to take land or making a recommendation or request to take land. Property Council supports this as it not only enables direct engagement between landowners and decision-makers, but also streamlines the acquisition process, and reduces delays usually associated with litigation.

Enhanced compensation

It is good to see that there is enhanced compensation available for landowners who voluntarily sell their land before a Notice of Intension is issued. This is a positive step towards encouraging early agreement, accelerating land acquisition processes and reducing delays for landowners.

In conclusion, Property Council supports the Bill as it a critical step toward the timely delivery of essential infrastructure across New Zealand, while ensuring appropriate compensation for property owners whose land or interests are affected.

Should you have any questions, please contact [Sandamali Ambepitiya](#), Senior Advocacy Advisor.

Yours sincerely,



Leonie Freeman
Chief Executive
Property Council New Zealand