



GE Free New Zealand

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Re: Regulatory Standards Bill

Kia ora Regulatory Standards Committee,

We are making this submission to the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill to ask that this Bill does not proceed to drafting.

Ministerial advice on this Bill identifies alternative ways to address the concerns for improved regulations that are less damaging to good governance. These avenues should be pursued as alternative objectives rather than progressing the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill.

1. Previous versions of this Bill have been introduced but not progressed for good reasons. This Bill should also not be progressed as it risks restricting future governments from acting in the public interest and allowing corporates to seek more permissive regulation to suit their commercial interests.
2. The Ministry for Regulation who receives directives from the Minister for Regulation should not be able to issue regulatory guidelines that are contrary to the public good. This Ministerial interference crosses the boundary of independent ruling for legislative executive decision-making, and judicial interpretation.
3. No government minister should be able to influence decisions that are counter to the existing regulations in place. The Bill threatens parliamentary sovereignty and undermines the public and collective people's rights.
4. The proposed substitution of a Regulatory Standards Board in place of the Courts is open to political interference if judicial decisions, that are made in the long-term interest of the public good, do not align with the political agenda of the governing party/coalition of the day.
5. The requirement to follow a political Ministerial directive when the courts making an independent judgement under the law they are deliberating, leaves open the risk of political interference and personal gain that cannot be in the interests of Aotearoa/ New Zealand citizens.
6. The proposal to amend the law and exclude the principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) across all legislation is a breach of all commitments that both cultures have made with each other. It is New Zealand's founding document that sets directives in place on how New Zealand would be governed and gave rights to Māori for

management and protection of the environment. If Te Tiriti principles are removed from all legislation, it is another form of domination and colonisation of a non-indigenous culture that has connotations to the Native Schools Act and The Tohunga Suppression Act that made it illegal to speak Te Reo and practice Rongoā Māori.

7. The term “inconsistent”, “unnecessary” and “poor regulation” is a subjective and undermines the expertise of the people who interpret the law and carry out governmental directives. It implies that Governments would have overreach and be able to influence and undertake reviews of Judicial rulings at the Ministers behest. This undermines the independence of the courts and duty of care and public good that all of Government's should serve when passing laws with royal assent.
8. Democratic governance is lost when the Minister for Regulation has the mandate to change the nation’s legislative and political environment by embedding rigid legal frameworks that prioritise individual and property rights, constrain regulatory powers, and reduce the government’s ability to implement environmental protections, social safeguards, and Tiriti-based initiatives.
9. To maintain balance for civil society against economic factors and commercial interests blocking legislation intended for the public good it is imperative to have transparency and independent decision making that is not constrained by economic efficiency factors. Otherwise, the public interest will be harmed by a loss of precautionary principles, public harm principles and distributive justice principles. We must preserve independent decision making and founding nationhood public principles that are best for future generations.

This proposed Regulatory Standards Bill should not progress further.
We would like to be heard,

Ngā mihi,
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