

Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) (Transitional Provisions) Amendment Bill

2 February 2015

Hon Christopher Finlayson QC, Attorney-General

Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) (Transitional Provisions) Amendment Bill

1. We have considered whether the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) (Transitional Provisions) Amendment Bill ('the Bill') is consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('the Bill of Rights Act').
2. The Bill amends section 162 of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 ('the EEZ Act'). The amendment addresses an issue with the transitional provisions for existing petroleum activities involving structures in the EEZ Act. Unlike other transitional provisions in the EEZ Act, section 162 does not currently allow operators to continue their activities while a marine consent application is being considered by the Environmental Protection Authority or while any appeals are determined. The amendment will allow existing petroleum mining operators to continue their operations until their applications for marine consents are determined.
3. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the Bill of Rights Act.

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