

Environmental Reporting Bill

14 November 2013

Attorney-General

Legal Advice

Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990:

Environmental Reporting Bill

1. We have considered whether the Environmental Reporting Bill (PCO 17743/2.5) ('the Bill') is consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('the Bill of Rights Act'). We understand that the Bill will be considered by the Cabinet Legislation Committee at its meeting on Thursday, 21 November 2013.
2. We understand that the Bill may be subject to further amendments before it is submitted to the Cabinet Legislation Committee. We will provide you with further advice, if necessary.
3. The Bill aims to improve national environmental reporting in New Zealand. The Bill will require regular independent reporting on the state of New Zealand's environment as a whole and in individual environmental domains relating to air, atmosphere and climate, freshwater, marine and land. The Secretary for the Environment and the Government Statistician will be responsible for producing and publishing the reports jointly. The Bill also provides that the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment can comment on any aspect of the reporting.
4. 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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This advice was prepared to assist the Attorney-General to determine whether a report should be made to Parliament under s 7 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 in relation to the Environmental Reporting Bill. It should not be used or acted upon for any

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