Military Manoeuvres Act Repeal Bill

23 JUNE 2010

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

LEGAL ADVICE

CONSISTENCY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT 1990:

MILITARY MANOEUVRES ACT REPEAL BILL

1. We have considered whether the Military Manoeuvres Act Repeal Bill (“the Bill”), a Members’ Bill in the name of Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi MP, is consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (“Bill of Rights Act”). The Bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 17 June 2010 and is currently awaiting its first reading. We understand that the next Members’ Day is scheduled for 30 June 2010.

2. The Bill seeks to repeal the Military Manoeuvres Act 1915 which provides that the Governor-General may declare that land be made available for military manoeuvres. The explanatory note to the Bill states that the Act was enacted to deal with the extraordinary circumstances of mobilisation for the First World War and has not been used for at least 30 years.

3. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the Bill of Rights Act. This advice has been prepared by the Public Law Group and the Office of Legal Counsel.

Jeff Orr
Chief Legal Counsel
Office of Legal Counsel

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