Rodney District Council Bill

21 JUNE 2010

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

LEGAL ADVICE
CONSISTENCY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT 1990:
RODNEY DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL

1. We have considered whether the Rodney District Council Bill ("the Bill"), a local Bill in the name of Darien Fenton 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 16 June 2010 and is currently awaiting its first reading. We understand that the next Members’ Day is scheduled for Wednesday, 30 June 2010.

2. The Bill excludes the Rodney district from the Auckland region and the new Auckland Council. The Bill constitutes Rodney District Council as a unitary authority to provide local government for the Rodney district. The Rodney district will retain its boundaries and existing wards. The Bill will defer the local authority elections for Rodney for one year.

3. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed by 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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