Royal Society of New Zealand Amendment Bill

15 September 2010

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

LEGAL ADVICE
CONSISTENCY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT 1990:
ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND AMENDMENT BILL

1. We have considered whether the Royal Society of New Zealand Amendment Bill ('the Bill'), a Private Bill in the name of Grant Robertson MP, is consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('the Bill of Rights Act'). The Bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 14 September 2010, and is currently awaiting its first reading. We understand that the next Members’ day is scheduled for Wednesday, 22 September 2010.

2. The Bill seeks to amend the Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1997 to incorporate the advancement and promotion of the humanities into the object and functions of the Royal Society of New Zealand. The Bill also proposes to rename the Academy Council to the Academy Executive Committee, to amend the standard for election of Companions of the Society, and to amend the election process for Councillors of the Society.

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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