

Electricity (Continuance of supply) Amendment Bill

22 August 2008

Attorney-General

LEGAL ADVICE

CONSISTENCY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT 1990: ELECTRICITY (CONTINUANCE OF SUPPLY) AMENDMENT BILL

1. We have considered whether the Electricity (Continuance of Supply) Amendment Bill (PCO 13272/7.0) (the "Bill") is consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ("Bill of Rights Act"). We understand the Bill is likely to be considered by the Cabinet Legislative Committee at its meeting on Thursday, 28 August 2008.
2. The Bill amends the Electricity Act 1992 to remove the expiry date from the existing obligation on electricity distributors to continue to supply line function service to places supplied as at 1 April 1993. This obligation is currently set to expire on 31 March 2013. The Bill also permits distributors to supply electricity by alternative means, provided notice is given to consumers along with the opportunity to comment. In addition, the Bill provides for successors to distributors to take over their supply obligations.
3. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms contained in the Bill of Rights Act.

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