

Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill 2006

15 February 2006

Attorney-General

LEGAL ADVICE

CONSISTENCY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT 1990: WAITAKERE RANGES HERITAGE AREA BILL 2006

1. We have considered the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill 2006 ('the Bill'), a Local Bill in the name of Lynne Pillay MP, for consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('the Bill of Rights Act'). The Bill was introduced to the House of Representatives on 1 February 2006 and is currently awaiting its first reading. The Ministry understands that the next Members' Day is scheduled for 22 February 2006.
2. According to its explanatory note, the purpose of the Bill is to "recognise the national, regional and local importance of the Waitakere Ranges, foothills and coastal areas and to promote long-term protection and enhancement of this area and its important heritage features for present and future generations while enabling the area to be lived and worked in".
3. The Bill is designed to remedy perceived deficiencies in the current regulatory framework in managing the adverse effects of urban growth on the Waitakere Ranges. The Bill establishes the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area, defines its heritage features, specifies objectives for the Heritage Area, and provides special mechanisms for planning, resource management and decision-making in relation to the heritage area.
4. 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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