

22 January 2016

Hon Christopher Finlayson QC, Attorney-General

**Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Customs and Excise (Prohibition of Imports Made by Slave Labour) Amendment Bill**

1. We have considered whether the Customs and Excise (Prohibition of Imports Made by Slave Labour) Amendment Bill ('the Bill'), a members' Bill in the name of Peeni Henare MP, is consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('the Bill of Rights Act').
2. The Bill amends the Customs and Excise Act 1996 to make goods produced in whole or in part by slave labour a prohibited import. The Bill defines slave labour as 'labour by persons over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised'. This is consistent with definitions in the 1926 Slavery Convention and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
3. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the Bill of Rights Act.

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