

3 August 2016

Hon Christopher Finlayson QC, Attorney-General

Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Electronic Interactions Reform Bill

1. We have considered whether the Electronic Interactions Reform Bill ('the Bill') is consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('the Bill of Rights Act').
2. This omnibus Bill forms part of the ongoing information management work in the public sector. The purpose of the Bill is to remove small and technical legislative impediments that inhibit the ability of agencies¹ to provide digital services, or efficiently use customer information in a digital environment. Examples of amendments include allowing the online sale of fish and game licences, and allowing digital interactions in requirements to 'appear before' certain government agencies.
3. The Bill amends the following Acts:
 - a. Births, Deaths Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995
 - b. Civil Union Act 2004
 - c. Marriage Act 1955
 - d. Electronic Identity Verification Act 2012
 - e. Commerce Act 1986
 - f. Companies Act 1993
 - g. Copyright Act 1994
 - h. Corporations (Investigation and Management) Act 1989
 - i. Designs Act 1953
 - j. Fair Trading Act 1986
 - k. Financial Advisers Act 2008
 - l. Friendly Societies and Credit Unions Act 1982
 - m. Insolvency Act 2006

¹ The Bill contains proposals from the Department of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and the Department of Conservation.

- n. Patents Act 2013
 - o. Trade Marks Act 2002
 - p. Conservation Act 1987, and
 - q. Wildlife Act 1953.
4. 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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