

13 September 2018

Hon David Parker, Attorney-General

Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Crown Minerals (Petroleum Exploration) Amendment Bill

1. We have considered whether the Crown Minerals (Petroleum Exploration) Amendment 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. We have not yet received a final version of the Bill. This advice has been prepared in relation to the latest version of the Bill (PCO 21527/2.2). We will provide you with further advice if the final version includes amendments that affect the conclusions in this advice.
3. The intent of the Bill is to prohibit the grant of any new offshore exploration permits for petroleum and to offer onshore exploration permits in Taranaki only. The Bill therefore amends the Crown Minerals Act 1991 to specify that:
 - a. new exploration permits for petroleum will be available only in onshore Taranaki;
 - b. holders of new onshore exploration permits for petroleum will be able to access Taranaki conservation land only for minimum impact activities; and
 - c. the Bill preserves the rights of existing permit holders, and existing applications lodged but not determined before the introduction of this Bill.
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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