



E TIPU E REA WHĀNAU SERVICES

Submission of E Tipu E Rea Whānau Services on the Fast-track Approvals Bill

SUBMITTER DETAILS

FULL NAME: E Tipu E Rea Whānau Services

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE: 2/247 Edmonton Road, Te Atatū South, Auckland 0610

EMAIL: leah.williams@etipueareaws.org.nz

Introduction

E Tipu e Rea Whānau services supports young hapū māmā, mātua taiohi (young parents) and their tamariki with a range of health and social services tailored to their needs. Our mission statement is: Supporting mātua taiohi, hapū māmā and pēpi to grow, thrive, and be rangatira within their whānau, hapū, iwi, hapori.

As a service, we strongly oppose the Bill. The Bill purports to be a fast-track legal framework. We believe the consequences for such a process risks extensive environmental damage. The young māmā we work with often discuss their concerns for the environment and the balance between the need for development (housing) and safeguarding the taiao for future generations - their tamariki. The proposed Fast-track approvals Bill does not address the balance needed to protect the environment.

The Bill bears no resemblance to existing fast track processes. It gives Ministers and the new coalition government, powers to ultimately fast track bills without the participation or voice of the people – such as the hapū māmā and mātua taiohi that we support and have already raised their concerns about the environment.



E TIPU E REA WHĀNAU SERVICES

The proposed Bill also does not take into consideration iwi and hapū voices. There are currently no requirements to consider Te Tiriti or its upholding principles, and we believe that this needs to be urgently reconsidered.

Key concern #1: No significant consideration of upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the voices of community.

- There is a limited focus on upholding Treaty settlements, the MACA customary rights, Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and Joint Customary Rights
- Treaty settlements can be modified by agreement, but iwi authority entity cannot unlawfully suppress agreement
- The Bill lets Ministers pick and choose projects for the fast-track process. Government can therefore be the developer, the regulatory gatekeeper and the ultimate decision maker. This is an inappropriate distribution of power and has disregard the community (such as the whānau we work with) and for iwi/hapū.

Key concern #2: Unsustainable management

- Development of infrastructure is based on efficiency and delivering quickly, not sustainable or environmentally focused. We want to see more balance to protect the environment for future generations.
- Ministers have the right to choose whether to use a panel for development decision making and choose to fast track ahead without seeking opinions from community, iwi/hapū and professional experts. To balance the protection of the environment and the need for development we would like to see expert panels rather than Ministers



E TIPU E REA

WHĀNAU SERVICES

with no or little experience making decisions. The proposed Bill does not ensure expert panels are in place.

- The timeframe of 10 working days for comments from iwi/hapū we believe is deeply unfair as not all iwi/hapū are not able to respond at such a pace.
- No consults or hearings required
- No recovery costs given to iwi/hapū for input (if given)

Key concern #3: Weak rationale

- There is little evidence to address the problems which the Bill is being instated for. We need to be sure that the evidence is right to put our environment at such risk.

Concluding comments

The Bill represents a monumental shift in environmental consenting in this country. It is a radical disruption of the system where balance does not exist, and where our future generations will have to face environmental degradation for decades to come. It bears little resemblance to existing fast-track processes, which are currently operating adequately. The Bill dishonours Te Tiriti and has upmost disregard for iwi/hapū, and ultimately whānau Māori, and more importantly, our tamariki. We recommend removing the proposed Bill. It should not be passed.

We thank the Select Committee for the opportunity to submit on this Bill. We wish to be heard in support of our submission.



E TIPU E REA
WHĀNAU SERVICES