

Resource Management Act reforms delayed

The progress of the Government's reform of the Resource Management Act 1991 has slowed. The Local Government and Environment Select Committee were due to report back on the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill to the House on 3 July¹. An extension has been sought and granted for the Select Committee to have 2 additional months before it reports², until 6 September 2016.

Because some of the amendments are controversial, whilst others are highly technical, there have been numerous submissions requiring both a political and technical response. It is not surprising that the Select Committee requires more time.

The Bill contains a wide mix of provisions that relate to a number of Acts, but primarily affects the RMA. Proposed amendments include: changes to the way resource consents are notified and processed; inclusion of natural hazards as a Part 2 matter; removal of local government functions regarding hazardous substances; increased regulation making powers for the Minister; new plan making processes; some alignments with the Conservation Act and Reserves Act; and provisions addressing iwi participation agreements and participation in new plan development processes. No change is proposed to the purpose section of the RMA.

Recently this same Select Committee was allowed to pause the process surrounding the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill³ to allow for additional work on solutions for issues raised by submitters⁴. That process resulted in changes to the Bill that has recently passed its third reading⁵.

Anderson Lloyd will continue to follow the progress of the RMA Reforms. For a short background on the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill see <http://www.andersonlloyd.co.nz/governments-long-awaited-rma-reforms-gain-support-for-first-reading/>

For further information regarding the RMA Reforms, please contact our [Resource Management team](#).

¹ Note: When a bill passes its first reading and is referred to a select committee the Standing Orders default to a 6 month timeframe for that select committee to report back after hearing submissions and recommending changes (Standing Orders of the House of Representatives 2014, page 87). The select committee had a 7 month timeframe to report on this Bill.

² Standing Orders of the House of Representatives 2014, page 87

³ Building (Earthquake-prone Building) Amendment Act 2016

⁴ The Select Committee presented an interim report to the House on 23 June 2015 after the initial submission date 8 May 2014 was extended to allow for further submissions over a year later on 16 July 2015.

⁵ Earthquake-prone Buildings New Law Passed (20 May 2016, Anderson Lloyd) <http://www.andersonlloyd.co.nz/earthquake-prone-buildings-new-law-passed/>