

3 May 2017

Hon Christopher Finlayson QC, Attorney-General

**Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Electoral (Registration by Special Vote) Amendment Bill**

1. We have considered whether the Electoral (Registration by Special Vote) Amendment Bill ('the Bill'), a member's Bill in the name of Meka Whaitiri 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 Electoral Act 1993 to allow unregistered voters, who complete a special vote, to qualify to vote, thereby ensuring their votes are counted. It provides that a special vote will be treated as an application to register as a voter and to update registration details. It also provides that the completion of a special vote will be treated as an application to register as an elector on that election day.
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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