

Rt. Hon. Bill English
Executive Wing
Parliament Buildings

Dear Prime Minister,

Both ACT and UnitedFuture voted against the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill at first and second reading. Both parties believe that the Bill, as it stands, does not address the intended purposes of the Act, adds disproportionate executive powers, and complicates several processes within the planning process.

We propose changes in three areas that would result in both parties being able to reconsider support for the Bill:

Recognition of Property Rights

The first is the lack of recognition of property rights in the Bill. Both parties believe that RMA reform should balance local participation and environmental protection with the right of landowners to use their property as they wish. The Bill should make it clear that the interests of property owners are a factor to be considered by councils when making plans and considering consents.

Excessive Ministerial Powers

The second is the Bill's new Ministerial power to override local plans. Both parties believe that the Bill's provisions allowing a Minister to overrule regional and city/district plans goes too far. We cannot support a bill that allows the Minister such a general discretion to overrule local communities in this way. This power should be amended.

Additional Iwi Participation Arrangements

The third is the Bill's new Iwi Participation Arrangements. Both parties believe that recognition of Māori interests are already provided under the Act in Sections 6, 7, and 8, as well in several other decision-making processes. Adding new arrangements will only risk complicating the planning process and making it even more drawn-out.

If the National Party adopts these changes to the Bill, ACT and UnitedFuture will be able to reconsider supporting it through the remaining stages in Parliament.



David Seymour MP
ACT New Zealand Leader



Hon. Peter Dunne MP
UnitedFuture Leader

