

Conservation (Fallen Timber Sale to Fund Programmes) Amendment Bill

Member's Bill

Explanatory note

This bill provides for the sale of fallen timber on conservation estate. Currently, despite a lack of funding for many conservation programmes, fallen timber may not be sold to fund such programmes. This is a waste of a resource which could be applied to improving environmental outcomes. This Bill will require that any proceeds from sale of fallen timber are used to fund conservation programmes. It is about achieving the best use of resources for the benefit of the environment.

Its application is limited to instances where multiple trees are felled by storm, flood, or other natural event. It allows for conditions to be imposed to prevent damage to the conservation estate by land-based extraction, such as removal by helicopter, and for up to 50% of the overall mass of the fallen trees to remain where appropriate, in order that fallen timber remain to break down naturally in the environment.

This Bill would be in line with the intent of the Conservation Act in that any funds from sale of the fallen timber would be applied to conservation programmes. In this sense, it would not represent gain or reward at the expense of the conservation estate.

Programmes which would be eligible for funding from sale of the fallen wood include control of possums, goats and other animal pests, native bird recovery programmes, invasive weed control, fencing repair, island management and restoration.

Clause 4 of the Bill inserts a new section 30A into the Conservation Act 1987, which deals with taking of fallen timber from conservation areas. Subsection (1) allows the Director-General to authorise taking of windfall timber by tender and specifies a range of

programmes which may be funded from income generated. Subsection (2) allows the Director-General to make conditions on the method of taking, for the purposes of protection of the conservation area.

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The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

1 Title

- (1) This Act is the Conservation (Fallen Timber Sale to Fund Programmes) Amendment Act **2001**.
- (2) In this Act, the Conservation Act 1987¹ is called “the principal Act”. 5
- ¹ 1987 No 65

2 Commencement

This Act comes into force on the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

3 Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to authorise the sale of fallen timber in order to fund conservation programmes. 10

4 Sale of fallen timber may fund conservation programmes

The principal Act is amended by inserting, after section 30, the following section: 15

“30A Sale of fallen timber may fund conservation programmes

- “(1) Despite section 30, following specific events, such as storms, which result in multiple fallen trees, the Director General may, through open public tender, authorise any person or persons to take fallen timber from a conservation area, provided that any income is applied to one or more of—
- “(a) programmes for control or eradication of animal pests; or
 - “(b) programmes for invasive weed control; or
 - “(c) native bird or other species recovery programmes; or
 - “(d) island habitat restoration programmes.
- “(2) Where the Director General gives an authorisation under **sub-section (1)**, such authorisation may prescribe—
- “(a) a particular method of extraction to be used to minimise damage to the conservation area, such as helicopter extraction; and
 - “(b) a condition that at least a specified percentage, up to 50%, of the total mass of the fallen trees remain to break down naturally.”