

House of Representatives

Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 15 October 2013

Animal Welfare Amendment Bill

Proposed amendment

Mojo Mathers, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

New clause 34A

After *clause 34* (after line 15 on page 15), insert:

34A Section 99 amended (Functions and powers)

After *section 99(2)*, insert:

- “(3) In performing the functions set out in **subsection (1)** the animal ethics committee must comply with **subsections (4) and (5)**.
- “(4) If a **suitable alternative** exists, the animal ethics committee must not approve a project that involves the use of an animal.
- “(5) If a **suitable alternative** does not exist, the animal ethics committee may approve a project only—
- “(a) if the trial complies with the restrictions on the use of animals in research, testing, or teaching set out in Part 6; and
- “(b) if the trial complies with any conditions issued by the committee relating to the use of animals.
- “(6) In this section, **suitable alternative** means a equivalent project that does not involve the use of an animal.”

Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper amends the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill. Animal testing should only be carried out when the proven benefit outweighs the cost to the animals and only as a last resort. There is a growing range of non-animal tests available, many of which are proven to be of equal or higher accuracy than animal testing. The fact that New Zealand currently lags behind

in implementation of these new non-animal tests, combined with, the potentially higher cost of some non-animal tests, means that if it is not specified in legislation, animal testing will continue to be the default choice in many situations. The Animal Welfare Act 1999 is currently missing a clear provision specifying that animal testing must not be used when alternatives are available. This Supplementary Order Paper would insert such a provision. This provision would help prevent animals suffering through unnecessary testing and ensure a world class and ethical Animal Welfare Act 1999.
