

House of Representatives

Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 15 August 2023

Water Services Entities Amendment Bill

Proposed amendments

Simon Watts, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

Clause 16

In *clause 16, heading to new section 145C* (page 17, line 34), delete “**or may**”.

In *clause 16, new section 145C(3)*, replace “may” (page 18, line 3) with “must”.

In *clause 16, new section 145C(4)*, replace “may” (page 18, line 5) with “must”.

Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) amends the Water Services Entities Amendment Bill. When the proposed community priority statements were introduced and signalled by the Minister of Local Government, they were intended to work as a counterpart to Te Mana o te Wai statements as they exist in the principal Act. National supported this as we believe the right to submit to water services entities should be extended to all individuals interested in water, not only mana whenua. Disappointingly, there are significant differences between Te Mana o te Wai statements and community priority statements. Most notably, the former must be considered, and the latter may be considered. This inconsistency will mean that, in practice, one will be weaker than the other, defeating the purpose of community priority statements. This SOP will remedy that by ensuring community priority statements must be considered by water services entities and cannot be selectively ignored, as is allowed under the current drafting of the legislation.