

The Fast-Track Approvals Bill

April 2024



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on The Fast-Track Approvals Bill. We are deeply concerned by this Bill, the impact it will have on fair process and on embedding short-termism.

1. The Bill is significantly out-of-step with the Governments own advice on best-practice policy and policy development.
2. The Bill reduces the rigour required and allows for bias in decision-making on major projects.
3. The Bill fails to adequately account for climate change and the protective value of a healthy environment under climate change, leaving communities' health and well-being more vulnerable.
4. The Bill undermines democratic processes.
5. The Bill is likely to worsen inequality by decision making that doesn't take impacts on communities into account.
6. The Bill is highly likely to have long-term impacts – impacting the lives of our children and grandchildren for short-term gain.
7. The Bill threatens our style of democracy, by allowing the Executive Branch to circumvent the Parliamentary and Judicial Branches.

Taunakitanga | Recommendations

We strongly recommend the Environment Select Committee does not recommend the Bill to the House and, in doing so, highlights its threats to New Zealanders' health and well-being.

We recommend the Committee urge the Government to re-direct its work programme to develop “a long-term vision for a transition towards a low-carbon, greener economy,” and to “build on [our] well-developed knowledge and innovation system for exporting higher value export products and decouple growth from natural resource use” as recommended by the OECD¹.

¹ OECD (2017), OECD Environmental Performance Reviews: New Zealand 2017, OECD Environmental Performance Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264268203-en>.

Ko wai tātou | Who we are

NZCCSS has six foundation members; the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support and the Methodist and Salvation Army Churches.

Through this membership, NZCCSS represents over 230 organisations providing a range of social support services across Aotearoa. We believe in working to achieve a just and compassionate society for all, through our commitment to our faith and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Further details on NZCCSS can be found on our website www.nzccss.org.nz.

Ingoa whakapā | Contact Name

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