



Kiwis in Climate

Submission to the Ministry for Regulation on the Regulatory Standards Bill

Image by NASA Visible Earth

Introduction to Kiwis in Climate

Kiwis in Climate (“KiC”) is a global professional network of over 450 New Zealanders working in climate and sustainability. Our members include executive leaders and experts from a range of fields including business, non-profit, science, law, engineering, and policy, and are spread across the world from Auckland and Wellington to London and New York.

Our kaupapa is to share knowledge and insights that accelerate science-backed solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The diverse make-up of KiC and cross-pollination of ideas gives us a unique view of Aotearoa New Zealand’s progress on climate change on the global stage as well as the opportunities and risks to Aotearoa New Zealand from collective global action (or inaction) on climate change. Collective views are informed by world leading practice by Kiwis who are on the ground developing the solutions. As we represent interests from a range of fields, our recommendations are balanced and considered; we want to see a world where communities, businesses and the economy thrive - but not at the expense of our only life-supporting planet.

Our submission

KiC strongly **opposes** the Regulatory Standards Bill and recommends that it be **abandoned** because it places **disproportionate value on private interests over environmental protection**.

The protection of our natural world - upon which all humans depend to survive - is inherently a collective responsibility and shared burden. GHG emissions are invisible and know no boundaries, as illustrated by the disproportionate impacts of climate change on the global south and future generations who have done little or nothing to cause it. Many less developed communities and nations will be destroyed as a result of our changing climate caused by high emissions from the development of wealthier ones, while increasing natural disasters that we experience around the world today are a culmination of decades of mistreatment of the environment by previous generations.

At the same time, we know that solving the climate crisis is a task that requires cooperation and collaboration at all levels from local communities to global leaders. The nature of the Paris Agreement means all parties must all deliver on their commitments otherwise the collective will

suffer. The climate crisis makes it starkly clear that we live in an interdependent world.

This is relevant not just at a global scale but applies between individuals and communities within countries too. To enable a climate resilient future, all parts of New Zealand society need to transform the way they operate. At times this might mean sacrificing some personal gain for the greater good of the environment, society, and future generations.

Therefore the focus in this bill on individual liberties and property rights over, and at the exclusion of, public welfare is at odds with the principles needed to protect further damage to the climate and repair the damage that has already been done. The constitutional nature of this bill purports to underpin all future legislation in New Zealand, threatening future regulation that may be required to safeguard the environment for future generations.

The balance of public and private interests is already well established in common law with the public harm principle which this bill is silent on. If enacted, this bill would undermine this balance, placing disproportionate importance on private interests at the expense of environmental protection for the benefit of the public.

Further, we would like to express our deep concern at the extremely limited public consultation of this Bill. Considering the significance of what it proposes and its constitutional nature it deserves a far greater level of public scrutiny and discussion. We urge you to significantly increase the consultation and feedback period.

Should you have any questions about our submission, please get in contact.

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