



To: Committee Secretariat  
Finance and Expenditure Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington  
[RegulatoryStandardsBill@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:RegulatoryStandardsBill@parliament.govt.nz)

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From: Dr M.Claire Dale, Honorary Research Fellow  
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## **Submission: Regulatory Standards Bill**

Thankyou for this opportunity to respond to the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill.

The Pensions and Intergenerational Equity Hub of the Economics Policy Centre Auckland University opposes the proposed Bill in its entirety. It is directly inimical to improvement in intergenerational equity and a fairer sharing of resources. It takes us backwards in the preparation for an ageing population and the reduction of poverty.

1. New Zealand needs regulations that protect our natural resources, our whānau, and future generations. This Bill prioritises business and commerce over people and the environment. This Bill prioritises individual and property rights over Te Tiriti, environmental protections, the Human Rights Act, international legal obligations and any collective sense of the common or social good.

2. A Bill should not be a retrospective piece of legislation, but this Bill gives far-reaching powers over current and future legislation to the newly established Ministry of Regulation and the Minister for Regulation. It would introduce a set of regulatory principles that new and existing regulations would be measured against, including the rule of law, personal liberties, taking of property, taxes, fees, levies, and the role of courts. For example:

Part 3 (2c) (i) would empower the Regulatory Standards Board to: *...Inquire into whether existing legislation is consistent with the principles of responsible regulation;*

In addition:

Part 2 (b) (ii) provides for — *the review of the consistency of proposed and existing legislation with the principles of responsible regulation; and*

*(ii) the disclosure of the reasons for any identified inconsistencies;*

3. The Bill gives far too much power to its architect, Minister for Regulation David Seymour. For example, Subpart 7 establishes the Regulatory Standards Board. *clauses 37, 38, and 40 and Schedule 2* provide for other matters for the board and its membership. In particular, *the board must have not fewer than 5 and not more than 7 members who are appointed by the regulatory standards Minister; and members hold office for up to 3 years but may be reappointed; and the board and its members owe certain duties to the regulatory standards Minister.*

4. Our economy is an area of the consumption, production, distribution and trade of goods and services. It is a social domain of interrelated human practices and transactions associated with the production, use, and management of resources. This Bill prioritises individual and property rights, business and commerce over people and the environment. This Bill allocates no value to protection of our natural resources, our whānau, or future generations.

5. This Bill should not go to an expensive and unnecessary referendum, nor should it proceed in any form.

Ngā mihi nui,

Claire

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