



With the Compliments
of

ROB STOREY
M.P. WAIKATO

2

3 September, 1990

A STATEMENT FOR
NATIONAL MP'S AND CANDIDATES:

THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LAW - NATIONAL'S POSITION

- WHERE TO FROM HERE ?

The Resource Management Bill completed its 2nd Reading in Parliament on Saturday, 1 September at about 11.30am.

The Committee stages then commenced, and after 3 speeches on the Short Title, from each side, the Prime Minister replied and the Government then moved to adjourn the House until next Tuesday, at about 12 midday.

The Government still had available 11 hours debating time until midnight Saturday to complete the Committee stages. They chose instead to abandon the debate and then to accuse the Opposition of filibustering, and delaying the bill.

Government runs parliament. They had 8 available debating days, 2 were needed for this most important bill, but Government chose to give lesser legislation higher priority - i.e. The Runanga IWI Bill, and the Commodity Levies Bill.

National's Position:

National supports the principles of the bill, but believes that the mechanisms it sets up to administer these principles are cumbersome and costly, and time consuming.

The aim of the Resource law was to consolidate existing planning law - the Bill has achieved this.

More importantly, however, it was intended that the Bill would lead to -

- * better environmental and economic planning outcomes
- * a less costly planning process
- * a swifter planning process

The National Party believes that the Bill as it stands, will not achieve this objective.

We have suggested a number of amendments which should help achieve this goal.

- * They include a clearer definition of the environment
- * Changes in Clause 4 - the Purpose of the Bill, which clarifies and improves the environmental objectives of the Bill
- * The deletion of Part 5 which deals with Government Policy Statements, and the insertion of words which indicate that Government policy will be promulgated as an amendment to the Act, subjected to submissions and Select Committee scrutiny, and will set firm minimum standards.

Future Progress:

NATIONAL HAS GIVEN AN ASSURANCE THAT THE BILL WILL CONTINUE.

The Bill and the proposed amendments will be subject to peer group study. This group comprising environmental, user, Local Government, and Planning specialists, will be shortly set up, to advise the Government on the Bill's workability, before Christmas.

As soon as practicable after the election a Resource Management Conference will be held in Wellington of people and groups interested in the Bill, who will be asked to give their view on the Bill as amended.

The views of the Peer Group, the Resource Bill Conference, and amendments already prepared and publicly available, will go to a Select Committee in February.

I would expect the Select Committee will be able to complete its work quite quickly and the Bill finally passed through Parliament in March or early April.

Jim Bolger has pledged that National will have this Bill improved, enacted, and ready for implementation by 1 July, 1991.

I have also personally pledged that the legislation will not have a worse environmental outcome than existing legislation. I stand by that pledge. INDEED, I AM CONFIDENT THAT IN MANY AREAS, THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Storey'.

Rob Storey, MP
Opposition Spokesperson for the Environment
and Resource Allocation