



## MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

PRESS RELEASE

HON SIMON UPTON  
MINISTER FOR THE  
ENVIRONMENT

1 March 1991

### MINISTER REFUTES QUEEN'S CHAIN CLAIMS

Minister for the Environment, Simon Upton dismissed claims that the Resource Management Bill Review Group report will remove control of the Queen's chain from the Minister of Conservation, and said that marginal strips will remain the Minister's responsibility under the Conservation Act.

Yesterday, Federated Mountain Clubs vice-president Hugh Barr said that a recommendation in the report undermined Queen's chain access to coast, rivers and lakes.

"The Queen's chain or marginal strip is a strip of land 20 metres wide along the edge of a water body which is retained in Crown ownership through the Minister of Conservation when Crown land is disposed of. It does not include the bed of water bodies", said the Minister.

"The Bill proposed that activities by the Minister of Conservation in marginal strips be exempted from the resource management legislation. The Review Group was concerned about this exemption. It recommended all activities in marginal strips should continue to be subject to controls set by the local authority as they are at the moment under the Town and Country Planning Act.

They are wrong when they claim that the strips are no longer under the control of the Conservation Minister. Marginal strips will remain the Minister's responsibility under the Conservation Act", said Mr Upton.

"Before making any changes relating to marginal strips, I will discuss the matter with the Minister of Conservation. If the Review Group's recommendation is adopted, it will provide further protection for marginal strips."

"I am committed to protecting the Queen's chain. The Bill will not be amended to weaken the marginal strip provisions."

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