



23 June 2025

Committee Secretariat
Finance and Expenditure Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Submitted via email to RegulatoryStandardsBill@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā Koutou,

Rangitikei District Council's submission on the Regulatory Standards Bill

The Rangitikei District Council (Council) thanks the Finance and Expenditure Committee for the opportunity to submit on the Regulatory Standards Bills. Council does not wish to speak in support of its submission.

Council would like to indicate upfront that this submission is relatively “light touch” due to the amount of legislative changes coming our way currently and our limited resource.

The Regulatory Standards Bill aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary and poor-quality legislation in New Zealand by increasing transparency and ensuring that legislation is based on the principles of good law-making and economic efficiency. It proposes to introduce principles to guide the development of legislation, proposes the establishment of a Regulatory Standards Board, and provides new powers to the Minister/Ministry for Regulation.

Overall, Council questions the need for the Regulatory Standards Bill. Council supports the development of legislation/regulation in a transparent and efficient way, based on the principles of good law-making. Regulation produced by Council is developed in accordance with the purpose and parameters set by the specific legislation it is being produced under as well as overarching legislation such as the Bill of Rights Act 1990. Council works hard to communicate and engage with our community to ensure that the regulation, plans, and policies it develops and/or reviews are transparent and fit for purpose.

Notably some of the principles proposed in the Regulatory Standards Bill appear to be quite narrow in scope/focus and there are also some obvious omissions (e.g. lack of provision for the Treaty/te Tiriti of Waitangi or provision for intergenerational equity). Furthermore, many of the principles are already appropriately recognised and/or protected through existing legislation.

There is likely to be conflict between the principles themselves and/or existing legislation that contains contrary principles, and there is a lack of clarity on how these conflicts are to be resolved. There is also a risk of inflexibility as these principles may make it more difficult in the future for legislation to be responsive to social, demographic, or technological changes.

Council has concerns about the need for, and role of, the Regulatory Standards Board (the Board). If such a Board is to be established, then it should be independent of the Minister/Ministry for Regulation. Steps should also be put in place to ensure the Board is able to function free of political influence. Furthermore, the ability of the Board to investigate of its own accord should be restricted with clear criteria put in place to guide when it can instigate an investigation.

Broadly, the Regulatory Standards Bill will introduce more complexity to the development of legislation which Council considers unnecessary without clear and substantial gains (which are not apparent).

There are mechanisms that exist within our current system which could be amended, improved, or expanded to achieve greater consistency and transparency (e.g. use of Regulatory Impact Statement, guidance from the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee, or the Ombudsman), and which would more effectively achieve the stated purpose of this Bill.

Ngā mihi,



Andy Watson
Mayor of the Rangitikei