Radio New Zealand Amendment Bill

28 April 2009

Attorney-General

LEGAL ADVICE

CONSISTENCY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT 1990:
RADIO NEW ZEALAND AMENDMENT BILL

1. We have considered whether the Radio New Zealand Amendment Bill (PCO 8314/10.0) ("the Bill") is consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (the "Bill of Rights Act"). We understand the Bill is likely to be considered by the Cabinet Legislative Committee at its meeting on Thursday, 30 April 2009.

2. The Bill amends the Radio New Zealand Act 1995 (the “Act”) to insert a new Radio New Zealand Charter (the “Charter”). The Charter states the purpose of Radio New Zealand as a public broadcaster and how it achieves that purpose through delivery of its services. The Bill also continues and clarifies the requirement for a five-yearly review of the Charter and requires that Radio New Zealand include in its annual report an assessment of its performance under the Charter.

3. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the Bill of Rights Act.

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