

# **Radio New Zealand Amendment Bill**

Government Bill

As reported from the Commerce Committee

## **Commentary**

### **Recommendation**

The Commerce Committee has examined the Radio New Zealand Amendment Bill and recommends, by majority, that it be passed with the amendment shown.

### **Introduction**

In the 46th Parliament, the Commerce Committee's review of the Radio New Zealand Charter<sup>1</sup> recommended a few minor legislative enhancements. This bill expands the wording of the Charter to ensure that it reflects the needs of New Zealand, in particular ensuring the Charter caters for New Zealand's spiritual and ethical needs.

### **Surveying of non-current audience**

One submitter questioned the rationale behind requiring Radio New Zealand to inform the shareholding Ministers of the objectives and results of surveys of people not in its current audience. The proposed amendment to the Radio New Zealand Act 1995 was suggested by the previous committee to encourage involvement in assessing Radio New Zealand's performance against its Charter obligations. We believe surveying the views of people who are not currently part of the radio's audience will usefully inform its future programming

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<sup>1</sup> Carried out in accordance with section 7(4) of the Radio New Zealand Act 1995.

decisions with the potential to increase the audience and enhance delivery of the charter.

### **Commencement date**

We recommend the commencement date be amended to 1 January 2004. The commencement date currently in the bill has already expired.

## **Appendix**

### **Committee process**

The Radio New Zealand Amendment Bill was referred to the committee on 2 April 2003. The closing date for submissions was 22 May 2003. We received and considered 2 submissions from interested groups and individuals. Consideration took 14 minutes.

We received advice from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

### **Committee membership**

Mark Peck (Chairperson)

Gerry Brownlee (Deputy Chairperson)

Brent Catchpole

Russell Fairbrother

Rodney Hide

Darren Hughes

H V Ross Robertson

Hon Maurice Williamson

Sue Kedgley was a member of the committee for the purpose of its consideration of the bill but without the right to vote on any questions before the committee.

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**Radio New Zealand Amendment**

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**Key to symbols used in reprinted bill**

**As reported from a select committee**

*(Subject to this Act,)*

Words struck out unanimously

Subject to this Act,

Words inserted unanimously

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*Hon Steve Maharey*

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## Contents

|   |              |   |         |
|---|--------------|---|---------|
| 1 | Title        | 3 | Charter |
| 2 | Commencement |   |         |

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**The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:**

### **1 Title**

- (1) This Act is the Radio New Zealand Amendment Act **2002**.
- (2) In this Act, the Radio New Zealand Act 1995<sup>1</sup> is called “the principal Act”.

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<sup>1</sup> 1995 No 52

### **2 Commencement**

This Act comes into force on **(1 July 2003)1 January 2004**.

### **3 Charter**

- (1) Section 7(1)(a) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, after the word “cultural”, the words “, spiritual, and ethical”.
- (2) Section 7(1)(c) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, after the words “varied interests”, the words “and a full range of age groups”. 10
- (3) Section 7(1) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, after paragraph (g), the following paragraph:  
“(ga) an international radio service to the South Pacific  
(**Radio New Zealand International**), which may include a range of programmes in English and Pacific languages; and”. 15
- (4) Section 7(2) of the principal Act is amended by repealing paragraph (d), and substituting the following paragraphs: 20  
“(d) surveys, commissioned annually, of persons who are members of its current audience to establish whether those members consider that the quality and quantity of its services are being maintained in accordance with subsection (1); and 25

- “(e) surveys, commissioned from time to time, of persons who are not members of its current audiences.”
- (5) Section 7 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, after subsection (2), the following subsection: 5
- “(2A) The public radio company must, as part of its annual report, inform the shareholding Ministers of—
- “(a) the objectives and results of the annual surveys of its current audience under subsection (2)(d); and
- “(b) the objectives and results of any surveys of people not in its current audience under subsection (2)(e); and 10
- “(c) the measures, if any, it has taken in response to those results.”

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### Legislative history

23 December 2002

Introduction (Bill 29–1)

1 April 2003

First reading and referral to Commerce Committee