

House of Representatives

Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 22 November 2022

Water Services Entities Bill

Proposed amendment

Simon Court, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 13(d)

Replace *clause 13(d)* (page 21, lines 23 to 27) with:

- (d) partnering and engaging early and meaningfully with all affected local communities; and

Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper amends *clause 13* by replacing one of the operating principles that apply to water services agencies, so that those agencies required to partner and engage with all affected local communities, rather than with Māori.

Minister Mahuta has stated that “Māori have not expressed rights and interests in three waters assets over and above those as ratepayers within their respective communities of interest.” Freshwater, like air, is a taonga for all, and no one group has special or superior rights to freshwater or air over others. Fundamentally, if people have the same fundamental interests they have the same rights. If there are particular and unique customary rights to water, then we believe that those should be identified and dealt with separately (which is allowed for in this Bill).