



## **Submission on Fast Track Approvals Bill**

We thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to have input on this bill, which has significant implications for the wellbeing of this, and many future generations.

This submission is written on behalf of several member organisations of the Rainbow Support Collective, out of concern for our environment and in solidarity with iwi, hapū and hapori Māori resisting the bill for its disregard of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We wish to express our strong opposition to this bill.

We are concerned that this oversight not only dishonours the Crown's treaty obligations, but could lead to decisions that endanger our environment as a result of disregarding the perspectives and knowledge of Te Ao Māori. As kaitiaki of the environment, Māori input is essential for informed decision-making on resource management, development projects and the protection of whenua, wai, maunga, and wāhi tapu.

Moreover, granting joint Ministers the final authority on project approvals introduces potential conflicts of interest. Decisions of such magnitude should be transparent, appropriately consulted upon, and based on unbiased expert opinion.

The ecosystems that support life are not faring well. Aotearoa already has the highest proportion of threatened species in the world. Already, rural communities across the country are drinking nitrate-contaminated water, while many rivers and lakes are unswimmable. Meeting climate goals and protecting biodiversity must be a bottom line for every new project. The processes this bill undermines are not a handbrake, they are a safeguard and an opportunity for integrated, innovative design.

We add our voices to those sincerely urging the Environment Committee to reconsider the implications of the Fast-track Approvals Bill and uphold Aotearoa's commitment to thorough environmental kaitiakitanga and public participation. Efforts toward upholding Te Tiriti and environmental sustainability should prioritise the preservation of the cultural heritage and taonga tuku iho, and future generations' right for voice, representation, and engagement.

Thank you for your consideration  
Nāku iti nei, nā,

Qtopia  
Moana Vā, Navigators of Pacific Pride  
Gender Minorities Aotearoa  
Q Youth Inc.  
Rainbow Hub Waikato  
InsideOUT Kōaro  
OutLine Aotearoa  
Te Ngākau Kahukura