



Media Release

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The Public Health Association strongly opposes the Fast Track Approvals Bill

The proposed Bill would allow for 3 Ministers to approve infrastructure and development projects directly, thereby circumventing a public consultation process and any environmental protections that are currently in place. The Bill prioritises speed of development and delivery, rather than a focus on sustainable management.

Thus, the Bill fails to recognise the importance of protecting the natural environment for the health and wellbeing of individuals and the collective. The general risks, of placing excessive powers in the hands of development Ministers, the removal of public participation, and the removal of existing checks and balances, including the specific risks regarding Te Tiriti application mean that there is an increased risk of environmental degradation and reduced protection of Māori environmental interests in taonga.

As such, the Bill poses a threat to public health and wellbeing, especially in regard to Māori health.

Our submission was made on the 19th of April and can be found here:

<https://www.pha.org.nz/policy-submissions>

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