

Wise Response submission to Fast-track Bill.

Wise Response oppose this Bill in its entirety, as fundamentally undemocratic. That it comes on the heels of Parliament voting for an unsustainable environment – extrapolated; a vote for the extinction of species including ours – we view with incredulity.

Turning real wealth – an intact biosphere and stocks of resources – into piles of landfill waste, even done frugally, begs the question: What then? Extraction is a singular event, entropy is irreversible; recycling inadequate, and we have overshoot several Planetary Boundaries as it is.

To suggest accelerating the pace of that already-fraught real-wealth-into-waste process, using a loaded-dice system with no democratic checks and balances, is perhaps the most ignorant proposal New Zealand has ever seen.

Wise Response research on Limits to Growth indicates that this proposal is the inevitable result of attempting Growth within a Bounded System (Planet Earth, New Zealand); the last gasp of a failing ideology. Government has a responsibility to future generations, not just today's voters. Government's obligation – as the default caretakers acting on behalf of those future generations - is to leave them a physical chance; physical resource opportunities; physical land opportunities; enough biospheric capacity that they can live quality lives. Neither the original RMA, nor the recent – now quashed – rewrite, came anywhere near that yardstick. The society they sought to marshal required an amount of good-quality energy only found in fossil fuels; a one-off source.

The fast track proposal is much further adrift. Instead of giving future generations a chance, it seeks to accelerate immediate extraction, immediate resource draw-down. There is an urgent need to rapidly decelerate resource extraction and draw-down – if the future is to exist at all.

From time to time, the common good can be threatened by a smaller group striving to commandeer public wealth for their own advancement. That is bad enough for democracy at the best of times – but with humanity hitting the Limits to Growth, this is an even worse time for such a small group to hold all citizens' future wellbeing to ransom.

In conclusion: This Bill should be rejected in its entirety. We make that plea on behalf of all who follow.