

Privacy Commissioner's Submission to the Environment Committee on the Forests (Regulation of Log Traders and Forestry Advisers) Amendment Bill (250-1)

1. I am pleased to provide a submission on the Forests (Regulation of Log Traders and Forestry Advisers) Amendment Bill (**the Bill**). The Bill proposes a regime to regulate Log Traders and Forestry Advisers, including through the establishment of a public register of Log Traders and Forestry Advisers.
2. I have been consulted by officials during the drafting of this Bill and I thank them for their constructive and ongoing engagement. My comments on the Bill relate to clause 7 which in part establishes a public register of all Log Traders and Forestry Advisers.
3. Clause 7 establishes new sections 63ZD and 63ZE into the Forests Act 1949, requiring the Forestry Authority keep and maintain a public register of all registered Log Traders and Forestry Advisers. The register must contain the names, contact details, date of registration, date that registration expires, services that forestry advisers are authorised to provide, and any other information prescribed by regulation.
4. New section 63ZG provides that the Forestry Authority may direct that an individual's address must not be available for inspection or otherwise disclosed if the Authority is satisfied on the person's application that the disclosure would be prejudicial to the safety of the person or their family.
5. Consistent with such provisions in other legislation, such as section 239 of the Land Transport Act 1998, I **recommend** that new section 63ZG be amended to read:

“a person whose physical address is entered on a forestry register may apply to the chief executive of the Forestry Authority to have the address withheld from inspection or other disclosure on the grounds that its disclosure would be prejudicial to the person's privacy or safety of the person or the person's family”
6. I trust my comments are of use to the Committee in its consideration of the Bill. I do not seek to be heard on my submission but am happy to appear before the Committee if that would be of assistance.



John Edwards
Privacy Commissioner

21 May 2020