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**Media Release**



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### **Environmental Defence Society calls on Bluegreens to save the environment**

The Environmental Defence Society has encouraged the Minister for the Environment and the National Party's Bluegreens caucus to remove contentious proposals to change the Resource Management Act.

"The discussion paper released last week has a number of proposals that are sensible and warrant support," said EDS Chairman Gary Taylor, speaking to the Bluegreens Conference in Levin today (Saturday).

"But there are two big changes proposed that would lower environmental standards and give excessive powers to Ministers.

"Changes to the principles of the Act in sections 6 and 7 introduce economic development objectives alongside the environmental ones. This would change the RMA from an Act that enables development to one that promotes it. That is a step too far.

"The market should decide what development it favours and the RMA should assess its environmental effects.

"And proposals to give Ministers new powers to override council plans and insert their preferred outcomes directly into them are a step too far. It is reasonable for Ministers to set out national policy objectives but not to pick favourite developments and impose them on communities.

"My key message to the Bluegreens and to the government is that you can achieve improvements to the Act but please don't go overboard and adopt extreme measures that go too far and will cause environmental harm," Mr Taylor concluded.

The full speech is available [here](#)

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