

## EDS Newsletter: June 2020

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### EDS submission on Covid-19 Fast Track Bill calls for changes

EDS has filed a submission on the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Bill seeking some significant changes to better protect the environment. Improvements that are required include:

- tighten the connection with Part 2 of the Resource Management Act
- clarify that climate change effects must be considered
- prevent projects with significant adverse environmental effects from being fast-tracked
- prevent non-complying activities from being fast-tracked
- compliance with any national environmental standard
- enable members of the public to comment on fast-tracked projects

EDS is broadly supportive of this temporary bill that speeds up decision-making for job creating projects, provided environmental standards are not sacrificed. To assist others considering making a submission with our thoughts on the Bill, we are making the submission available [here](#). **Submissions are due by midnight this Sunday.**

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### Book sale extension



The EDS book sale has been extended to **Wednesday 24 June**. There are a number of books and reports available at knock-down prices covering topics including oceans management, terrestrial biodiversity, dolphins, and a range of environmental reform proposals. Access to the bookstore is available [here](#).

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### Mackenzie High Court case hearing

We now have a date for the High Court hearing concerning resource consents for Simons Pass Station's dairy conversion. As reported last month the issue is whether development consents are controlled (meaning they must be granted and likely non-notified) or discretionary (meaning they would likely be notified and could be refused). The hearing is now set down on 17 August in Christchurch. Barrister Rob Enright and EDS Solicitor Cordelia Woodhouse are acting for EDS.

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## Freshwater reform commentary misleading

Some of the commentary regarding the implications of deferring the inclusion of bottom lines for DIN and DRP in the attribute tables in the proposed NPS -FM has been misleading. The inference from some commentators (including well-respected scientists and a regional council chairman) is that the absence of those attributes means that DIN and DRP limits do not have to be set by regional councils. In our opinion that is incorrect. The narrative obligations in the NPS-FM require councils to set limits to protect ecological health. The absence of bottom-lines for some nutrients doesn't change that. And in any case bottom-lines are not limits. We do however intend to keep pushing for the attribute tables to be completed within the 12-month period specified for further consideration. Meantime regional councils preparing freshwater plans need to include consideration of appropriate limits for DIN and DRP.

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## System reform in the urban context

We are putting the final touches on a report outlining how we see resource management system reform playing out in the urban context. We expect to see it published online in PDF in the next few weeks. This builds on EDS's three-year (and counting!) work on wider system reform and will be timely to add to the debate as the government's independent reform panel, led by Hon Tony Randerson QC, nears its reporting date.

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## Urban Development Bill still not right

EDS is also continuing to work on what we see as essential changes to the Urban Development Bill, which has now been reported back from the select committee. The Bill confers extensive powers on Kainga Ora as an urban development authority, but in many areas it goes too far and undermines environmental safeguards. EDS made a submission on the Bill offering constructive recommendations for change, which can be found [here](#).

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## And new Mackenzie Country report

Te Manahuna-Mackenzie Basin, a report critiquing management of the Mackenzie Country, has now been released. It makes a number of recommendations which have been well-received by the management agencies. It is available as an online PDF [here](#).

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## Climate Change Conference now going ahead!



The EDS [Climate Change and Business Conference](#) (Auckland, 6-7 October) is now confirmed. A further announcement including a conference programme and provision for live registrations will be made shortly.