

**House of Representatives**

**Supplementary Order Paper**

**Tuesday, 7 March 2017**

**Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill**

*Proposed amendment*

Kris Faafoi, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

*New clause 48A*

After *clause 48* (page 40, after line 31), insert:

*Testing and training purposes*

**48A Power to use roads for testing and training purposes**

- (1) FENZ personnel may undertake any activity on any road for testing and training purposes in accordance with the policies of FENZ.
- (2) Any policy issued by FENZ under this section must provide for—
  - (a) the safe and efficient flow of traffic (whether pedestrian or vehicular);
  - (b) the health and safety of any person who is, or class of persons who are, likely to be directly affected by the activity on the road;
  - (c) the need to lessen disruption to the local community (including businesses).
- (3) FENZ must consult with the New Zealand Transport Agency and Local Government New Zealand on the development of any policies issued under this section.
- (4) Any policies issued under this section—
  - (a) come into force on the date that FENZ, the New Zealand Transport Agency, and Local Government New Zealand agree that the policy should come into force; and

- (b) must be published and maintained on 1 or more Internet sites maintained by, or on behalf of, FENZ, the New Zealand Transport Agency, and Local Government New Zealand.

### **Explanatory note**

This Supplementary Order Paper inserts *new clause 48A* to ensure that the Bill provides a new statutory right of access to roads for non-emergency activities in order for emergency services to exercise their functions and powers under *clauses 45 and 64*.

In 2015 the New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS) issued a national order prohibiting emergency services from undertaking training and hydrant-testing activity on all roads without their holding a temporary traffic management plan, as NZFS was concerned about a lack of clarity regarding the need to apply for and hold traffic management plans for non-emergency activities.

This has placed an undue burden on volunteer fire brigades and will stress volunteer time and training and require specialist training that will impact on core skill requirements for volunteers. This may lead to the situation where some volunteer fire brigades cannot resource members with the right qualifications for the necessary activity due to normal fluctuating member availability.

This Supplementary Order Paper provides clarity for fire brigades undertaking non-emergency activities and ensures that NZFS will consult with the New Zealand Transport Agency and Local Government New Zealand in developing traffic policies for non-emergency activities.