



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

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28 November 2006

S06.52

**Submission to the local Government and Environment Committee re:  
Building (Late Consent is Free Consent) Amendment Bill**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 38 Nationally Organised Societies. It has 32 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of those societies as well as some 150 other societies, and many individual members. The Council's function is to work for the well-being of women, the family and the community at local, national and international levels through research, study, discussion and action. This submission was researched by a group from within the membership.

NCWNZ supports the need for this amendment to the extent that it should mean that a very efficient system must be introduced by the territorial authorities who will have to make sure that the time frames are strictly adhered to.

Our concern, though, would be that the ratepayer would in the long run have to pay if consent goes over time.

It also does raise the wider issue of territorial authorities needing to recover costs on all tasks devolved by government from central government to local government; tasks that have no funding attached so will need to be paid for by local ratepayers through rates or compliance costs.

Conversely, if there are no penalties to the territorial authority officers for lateness then the ratepayers suffer consequences of inability to book and timetable tradespeople who cannot proceed without the consent. If the territorial efficiencies improve there is a win-win for all.

In the course of our research we have also heard that there is at least one territorial authority that is requiring home-owners to have a full land survey of their property to define boundaries even though the consent applied for may just be an internal change. This is apparently happening because the territorial authority has no accurate records of the property on file. This can add \$3000 to the original application and would of course also hold up the proceedings.

We thank you for the opportunity to reply to this Members Bill.

Christine Low  
National President

Christine Rattray  
Convener, Social Issues Standing Committee

