

# **The Treasury**

## **Statutes Repeal Bill Consultation Submissions Information Release**

### **Release Document**

**January 2016**

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Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

[1] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above. For example, an [1] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

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**From:** Hon David Butcher <David@dba.org.nz>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 17 October 2015 12:02 p.m.  
**To:** Regulation [TSY]  
**Subject:** Hawke's Bay Crematorium Act

**Categories:**

Regulatory Quality Team, The Treasury  
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Hello,

It is very pleasing to learn that many obsolete laws are being repealed. Maybe it would be a good idea to put an automatic repeal section in every law so that "unless otherwise extended" the law will be automatically repealed 20 years' hence. In 1979, during the opening of the Parliament the First Reading took place of the a bill designed to provide a vehicle to extend any laws that may have accidentally been omitted in the continuing resolution required to carry over unfinished business at that time. The Hon. Warren Freer told me that in all the years of his service (12 parliaments since 1947) it had never had a Second Reading so it may be that it is redundant under the new standing orders.

However, during my service as MP for Hastings the existence of the Hawke's Bay Crematorium Act was brought to my attention. At that time nobody had ever heard of it and could not even find it. However, after diligent research by one official the opinion was expressed that the Act had not been repealed and was the (1990) still in force. If that is the case now, my suggestion is that the purposes of the law could be more readily achieved by setting up a company or a Incorporated Society so if it has not been repealed in the interim it could well be added to list of repeals. My expectation is that among the local laws passed dozens if not hundreds of additional laws will be found that could well be repealed. There is of course the famous case when in the days when divorce was very expensive and difficult to obtain, a local law had the phrase "and the town clerk's marriage is hereby dissolved" added in. Nobody noticed until a subsequent town clerk asked if that applied to his marriage too.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. David Butcher

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