



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Aotearoa Section

*United Nations Consultative status with ECOSOC, UNESCO and UNCTAD
Special relations with the ILO, FAO, UNICEF, and other organisations and agencies*

17 November 2025

Submission on the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Bill

This submission is made on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom Aotearoa Section whose members oppose the Fast-Track Approvals Amendment Bill and believe it should be withdrawn in its entirety.

A government which understands and subscribes to the democratic process should not be legislating to accrue to its Ministers powers which must be left in the hands of independent bodies such as the expert panels appointed under the current Act.

The independence of the expert panels is undermined in the Amendment Bill because Ministers can issue 'policy statements' promoting the benefits of projects and the panels would be forced to consider these statements.

The proposed timeline of 60 days for approval or rejection of a major project is unrealistic for decisions which will have long-term effects on the environment and on surrounding communities.

The Fast-track Approvals Amendment Bill undermines environmental protection, erodes public participation, weakens Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations and concentrates decision making in the hands of a few Ministers. It should be withdrawn in its entirety.

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