

23 June 2025

Finance and Expenditure Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

By email: fe@parliament.govt.nz

Vector Limited submission on the Regulatory Standards Bill

1. Vector Limited (“**Vector**”) is New Zealand’s largest distributor of electricity, supplying more than 629,000 electricity connections between Papakura and Wellsford.
2. We welcome the opportunity to submit on the Regulatory Standards Bill (“**Bill**”).
3. We are concerned with clause 8(c) “Principles of responsible regulation – taking of property”:

Taking of property

- (c) legislation should not take or impair, or authorise the taking or impairment of, property without the consent of the owner unless—
 - (i) there is a good justification for the taking or impairment; and
 - (ii) fair compensation for the taking or impairment is provided to the owner; and
 - (iii) the compensation is provided, to the extent practicable, by or on behalf of the persons who obtain the benefit of the taking or impairment:
4. As an electricity distribution business, we have negotiated agreements with private property owners such as easements to access our infrastructure. We also rely on the provisions of the Electricity Act 1992 in relation to our existing works, which are ordinarily located on privately held land. We have statutory rights of access to inspect, maintain and operate our existing works which are essential to ensuring electricity supply to New Zealanders.
5. We are concerned that the provisions in clause 8(c) could make it harder for EDBs to build and maintain networks and ultimately constrain our ability to provide electricity distribution services to Auckland. This would hinder the Government’s ambitious plans to grow the economy and electrify New Zealand.
6. We therefore seek that the Electricity Act 1992 be excluded from the application of clause 8(c).
7. We also consider that the protections afforded to existing infrastructure by the Resource Management Act 1991, or its replacement, are also excluded from the application of clause 8(c). Related secondary legislation should also be excluded under clause 12.
8. If the Committee has any questions regarding this submission we would be happy to provide further information.

Yours sincerely

Aimee Gulliver