

NEWS



Message from Hon John Boscawen, ACT Party President

JOHN BOSCAWEN / NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend

4 DEC 2013
10:04AM

COMMENTS

Today, Hon John Banks, MP for Epsom and leader of ACT, has announced that he will not be seeking re-election in the 2014 General Election. John has decided, after 36 years of public service, that it is time for him to spend more time on his family and his private business interests. In the meantime, John will continue as the MP for Epsom and Leader of ACT.

As part of its candidate selection process for general elections, the Board of ACT will shortly be opening nominations for candidates to stand for ACT in the 2014 General Election. We have a number of very talented potential candidates and we expect to name our key candidates, including a new candidate for Epsom, by the time of our annual conference in early March.

The seat of Epsom has been held by an ACT MP since 2005, and we believe those MPs have served Epsom and New Zealand well. Since 2008, ACT has supported the John Key lead National coalition government in providing stable centre right government to New Zealand. The importance of this has been recognised by the voters of Epsom, who have continued to elect an ACT MP throughout this time.

Yours sincerely

Hon John Boscawen

President

[Add a comment](#)



Message from Hon John Boscawen, ACT Party President

JOHN BOSCAWEN / NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend

4 DEC 2013
10:04AM

COMMENTS

Today, Hon John Banks, MP for Epsom and leader of ACT, has announced that he will not be seeking re-election in the 2014 General Election. John has decided, after 36 years of public service, that it is time for him to spend more time on his family and his private business interests. In the meantime, John will continue as the MP for Epsom and Leader of ACT.

As part of its candidate selection process for general elections, the Board of ACT will shortly be opening nominations for candidates to stand for ACT in the 2014 General Election. We have a number of very talented potential candidates and we expect to

AUTHORS



TYPES

- [Blog](#)
- [Chinese](#)
- [Newsletter](#)
- [Newspaper Article](#)
- [Parliamentary Debate](#)
- [Press Release](#)
- [Speech](#)
- [Submission](#)
- [Vote](#)

TOPICS

- [ACC](#)
- [Broadcasting](#)
- [Commerce](#)
- [Consumer Affairs](#)
- [Crime And Justice](#)
- [Defence](#)
- [Economy](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Environment And Conservation](#)
- [Foreign Affairs](#)
- [Freedom to Build](#)
- [Governance And Constitution](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Immigration](#)
- [Local Government](#)
- [Maori Affairs](#)
- [Minimum wage](#)
- [Partnership Schools](#)
- [Primary And Secondary Education](#)
- [Primary Industries](#)
- [Regulatory Reform](#)
- [Resource Management Act](#)
- [Rural](#)
- [Small Business](#)
- [Social Welfare](#)
- [Superannuation](#)
- [Taxation](#)
- [Tertiary Education](#)
- [Transport](#)
- [Youth For ACT](#)
- [Youth minimum wage](#)

DATE

Choose a month ▾

name our key candidates, including a new candidate for Epsom, by the time of our annual conference in early March.

The seat of Epsom has been held by an ACT MP since 2005, and we believe those MPs have served Epsom and New Zealand well. Since 2008, ACT has supported the John Key lead National coalition government in providing stable centre right government to New Zealand. The importance of this has been recognised by the voters of Epsom, who have continued to elect an ACT MP throughout this time.

Yours sincerely

Hon John Boscawen

President

[Add a comment](#)



Message from Hon John Boscawen, ACT Party President

JOHN BOSCAWEN / NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend

4 DEC 2013
10:00AM

COMMENTS

Today, Hon John Banks, MP for Epsom and leader of ACT, has announced that he will not be seeking re-election in the 2014 General Election. John has decided, after 36 years of public service, that it is time for him to spend more time on his family and his private business interests. In the meantime, John will continue as the MP for Epsom and Leader of ACT.

As part of its candidate selection process for general elections, the Board of ACT will shortly be opening nominations for candidates to stand for ACT in the 2014 General Election. We have a number of very talented potential candidates and we expect to name our key candidates, including a new candidate for Epsom, by the time of our annual conference in early March.

The seat of Epsom has been held by an ACT MP since 2005, and we believe those MPs have served Epsom and New Zealand well. Since 2008, ACT has supported the John Key lead National coalition government in providing stable centre right government to New Zealand. The importance of this has been recognised by the voters of Epsom, who have continued to elect an ACT MP throughout this time.

Yours sincerely

Hon John Boscawen

President

[Add a comment](#)



Message from Hon John Boscawen, ACT Party President

JOHN BOSCAWEN / NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend

4 DEC 2013
10:00AM

Today, Hon John Banks, MP for Epsom and leader of ACT, has announced that he will not be seeking re-election in the 2014 General Election. John has decided, after 36 years of public service, that it is time for him to spend more time on his family and his private business interests. In the meantime, John will continue as the MP for Epsom and Leader of ACT.

As part of its candidate selection process for general elections, the Board of ACT will shortly be opening nominations for candidates to stand for ACT in the 2014 General Election. We have a number of very talented potential candidates and we expect to name our key candidates, including a new candidate for Epsom, by the time of our annual conference in early March.

The seat of Epsom has been held by an ACT MP since 2005, and we believe those MPs have served Epsom and New Zealand well. Since 2008, ACT has supported the John Key lead National coalition government in providing stable centre right government to New Zealand. The importance of this has been recognised by the voters of Epsom, who have continued to elect an ACT MP throughout this time.

Yours sincerely

Hon John Boscawen

President

[Add a comment](#)



Right Thinking- the word from Wellington- Nov 8

ACT PARTY / NEWSLETTER

Crossed Wires – the cost of political meddling

8 NOV 2013
5:03PM

COMMENTS

ACT never much liked National's Ultra-fast broadband (UFB) programme that uses taxpayers' money to hasten the laying of fibre to the home ahead of what the market would have delivered. When government gets involved in tech projects – it mostly ends in tears and in more taxpayer money being spent.

This week the Commerce Commission (the regulator) determined a price for unbundled bitstream access (UBA) on Chorus' copper wires lower than expected by both Chorus and investors. UBA is the wholesale internet resold by ISPs who don't have their own network connection to the house. Chorus is the network part of the old Telecom after structural separation of their network and retail operations. The old Telecom was essentially dismembered by David Cunliffe.

Chorus now says it cannot complete its side of the UFB deal because of the loss of revenue from UBA. The Government has said all options are on the table to make sure the UFB rollout stays on course. Amy Adams the Communications and IT Minister has asked for an audit of the Chorus numbers before Christmas. Chorus has also exercised its appeal rights on the Commission's decision and is seeking a price review – but this process could last years.

All options on the table but a Bill to fix the price least likely

While all options might be on the table some are more likely than others. RT thinks that legislation to fix the price isn't likely. First, it's a bad look to roll over an independent regulator that has been tasked with setting the price for UBA. Second, legislation is time consuming and politically messy in election year. Third, legislation won't necessarily boost investor confidence in Chorus quickly. If the numbers no longer stack up for Chorus the Government is more likely to change the UFB deal with Chorus and that will most likely cost taxpayers. In hindsight Cunliffe's dismemberment of Telecom wasn't such a good idea. A decade of political dabbling in the telecommunications sector has cost both taxpayers and shareholders dearly. That looks set to continue.

Professor Robert McCulloch

On Saturday 16 November (details [here](#)) Robert will be presenting a brief history and future of NZ's economic challenges. Beginning with the philosophy behind Sir Roger Douglas' free market reforms starting in 1984, Robert will discuss some of the new and unforeseen policy challenges and threats that are haunting the NZ and the international economy in a post Global Financial Crisis World.

How should political parties that advocate market reforms in NZ respond? How have they been responding? Robert will try persuading you that politicians from across the left-right spectrum in NZ have begun advocating ad-hoc market interventions for two reasons: one, they lack new coherent visions about the role of government in the 21st century and two, they lack world class economic policy advice both internally and from domestic private think tanks.

Shallow Assurance

David Cunliffe's big announcement at Labour's Conference was that the Government's micro bank Kiwi Bank would be getting into the fire and general insurance business via a newly minted SOE Kiwi Assure. So taxpayers will be both mortgagee and insurer! It was red meat for Labour's left-wing conference delegates. Cunliffe also intended to appeal to voters in the Christchurch East by-election worn down by hassles with insurance companies the EQC. Of course Labour has form on this issue: Phil Goff was the Minister responsible for selling State Insurance in the late 1980s. This new policy is obviously dopey given the experience in GFC. Labour seemed to sense the rising ridicule they gave up punting the policy in Parliament by the end of the week. What the policy does tell us is a bit more about what we can expect from a shallow Mr Cunliffe. ACT's own Richard Prebble has the Leader of the Opposition sorted [here](#).

The Wrap

Steady achiever of the week

RT thinks Paula Bennett had a good week. She [mows](#) the Labour Party in the Parliament like an untidy Auckland berm. She has force of personality; she conveys conviction. She has taken the batten of welfare reform run with it and made it her own. Welfare reform shows the important role ACT has in Parliament in making ideas safe for National and others to adopt.

Corked pol of the week

Some politicians are like a corked bottle of wine; they don't get any better with age. The Greens deputy Leader and former solicitor Matiria Tūrei is such a politician. She breathlessly produced a press release announcing that John Banks breached privilege by voting for a Convention Centre for Auckland and asking the Speaker to find the privilege in question. The supine media reproduced the statement without asking Tūrei the basic question: what privilege? She is after all a former lawyer and seasoned politician; she should know this stuff. It was a media stunt. You can see John Banks' classic response [here](#).

Upcoming Events

- Auckland North Regional Forum, Takapuna Yacht Club, 39 The Strand, Takapuna, Saturday, November 16, 1.30pm - 4pm, Cost: \$10. Hosted by Beth Houlbrooke. Speakers include Dr Jamie Whyte, Nick Hyde, and Professor Robert MacCulloch.
To RSVP, you may register online [here](#). Alternatively, you may contact Beth.Houlbrooke@act.org.nz and direct credit your fees into the 'ACT NZ Auckland North Region' Bank Account 01-0121-0120885-00, putting your name in the particulars.
- Canterbury Regional Forum, Saturday 23 November, 2.30 - 4.30pm Cotswold Hotel, Papanui Rd, Christchurch.

[Add a comment](#)



Right Thinking- the word from Wellington- Nov 1

ACT PARTY / NEWSLETTER

1 NOV 2013
12:00AM

COMMENTS

Labour goes soft on lifting retirement age

Labour will be watering down its commitment to lift the eligibility age for superannuation from 65 to 67 at its annual congress this weekend in Christchurch. Gone will be any definitive timeframe for doing what's needed. On the face of it this seems both bad politics and bad economics. The political benefit from a clear commitment on the timeframe is that it balanced out Labour's other dopey ideas. Now they are left proposing a capital gains tax, increasing taxes on the "rich" and proposing more spending. In a campaign about competing economic visions Labour can't look like its thinking long term. Yet those who reject any shift upwards in the age of edibility for super still have reason not to vote Labour.

NZIER does the numbers: the welfare state is still unaffordable

The underlying numbers don't change despite National and now Labour agreeing there is no problem with super affordability that cannot be addressed another day by another government. Helpfully NZIER has produced a little paper that makes the case for urgent reform for the welfare state. It does so by looking at the effect of current spending levels and current tax settings on public debt. The short of it is this: 'something has got to give.'

ACT does not support the NZIER prescription of new or increased taxes. Government is already taking too much of what New Zealanders produce. We think the government should do less for those who can make their own arrangements in return for taking less in taxes. That said the paper is a useful contribution to the debate and again confirms what ACT already knows.

The NZIER discussion document *Fighting Fit* is [here](#).

Public intellectuals

Dr Jamie Whyte

New Zealand rarely produces a decent public intellectual. Seldom are they world class. Rarer still are they advocates for individual freedom and personal responsibility. So when we find one ACT likes to put them in front of an audience. Jamie specialises in looking at the slippery arguments of politicians and their fondness for faulty reasoning.

Aucklanders have the opportunity to hear Jamie Whyte on Saturday 16 November (details at the end of RT). Jamie is an Aucklander, graduate of the Universities of Auckland and Cambridge, a philosopher, writer and broadcaster. He has been a management consultant and currency trader. You can read his recent column in the *NZ Herald* [here](#) and listen to him on the rule of law v the rule of man for the BBC Radio 4 programme: [Analysis here](#).

Abroad

UK Labour signs up to Free schools

New Zealand leads the anglosphere with the policy design for partnerships schools (called free schools or academies in the UK and charter schools in the USA). One key feature of the policy allows the educators of partnership schools to use qualified teachers who don't have registration with the NZ Teachers Council (soon to be replaced). In the five approved Partnership schools core curriculum subjects will be delivered by teachers registered with the Council. Here the circumstances and number of teachers who don't hold registration with the Council is approved by the Minister of Education when a sponsor applies to run a Partnership school.

In the UK shadow Education secretary Labour's Tristram Hunt has signed up to free schools saying that Labour will have its own version. Echoing Liberal Democrat leader and Deputy PM Nick Clegg, Hunt says free schools should only be able to employ teachers who have a teaching qualification (that's in addition to subject qualification). Despite this concession to the teacher unions this is a victory for Michael Gove the secretary of state for Education. UK Labour who first introduced the academies as a response to failing schools is clearly more advanced than their New Zealand counterparts.

RT thinks Labour here will drop its opposition to partnership schools after the next election assuming Key is returned. ACT intends to ensure Partnership Schools are here to stay and grow so expanding the choice available to the parents of some of our most vulnerable learners.

The Wrap

Honest politician of the week

Dr Jonathan Coleman. As Minister of Defence he joined US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel at a press conference in Washington and admitted that there would be little point in listening into the cell phone calls of New Zealand politicians as we have few secrets in Wellington.

Dopiest idea of the week

Colin Craig proposes to use the Public Works Act 1981 to compulsory purchase land off owners in order to make it available for housing development. No wonder he is in a death-tussle with Winston First; neither understands economics.

Upcoming Events

- Auckland North Regional Forum, Takapuna Yacht Club, 39 The Strand, Takapuna, Saturday, November 16, 1.30pm - 4pm, Cost: \$10. Hosted by Beth Houlbrooke. Speakers include Dr Jamie Whyte, Nick Hyde, and Professor Robert MacCulloch. To RSVP, you may register online [here](#). Alternatively, you may contact Beth.Houlbrooke@act.org.nz and direct credit your fees into the 'ACT NZ Auckland North Region' Bank Account 01-0121-0120885-00, putting your name in the particulars.
- Canterbury Regional Forum, Saturday 23 November, 2.30 - 4.30pm Cotswold Hotel, Papanui Rd, Christchurch.

[Add a comment](#)



Announcement of first Partnership Schools

JOHN BANKS / SPEECH

Today's announcement of the first Partnership Schools is a result of ACT's Confidence and Supply Agreement with National.

Underpinning our agreement is the mutual goal of ensuring every New Zealander receives a high quality education.

It is a great achievement for ACT, with support from our colleagues in National and the Maori Party, to be standing here today.

The successful schools are located in Auckland and Northland and will open in time for day one, Term One of the 2014 school year.

The five schools are:

- **The Rise UP Academy in Mangere East, South Auckland;** a co-educational primary school for years 1- 6
- **South Auckland Middle School in South Auckland;** a co-educational middle school for years 7 - 10
- **Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru in Whangaruru, Northland;** a co-educational secondary school for years 9 – 13
- **Vanguard Military School in Albany, Auckland;** a co-educational senior secondary school for years 11 - 13
- **Te Kura Hourua or Whangarei Terenga Paraoa, Whangarei, Northland;** a co-educational secondary school for years 7 - 13.

Congratulations to the school sponsors. Today is a celebration of their achievement.

They successfully navigated the high hurdles and tight hoops of the application process and I am confident that they will make a difference to our priority learners.

Educational success is the ladder for social mobility.

That's why ACT believes parents should be able to choose the education option best

17 SEP 2013
1:50PM

COMMENTS

suited to their child's needs.

Partnership Schools will provide more choice in New Zealand's education system, and more importantly, more choice for priority students.

Partnership Schools have greater freedom and flexibility to innovate and engage with their students in return for stronger accountability for improving educational outcomes.

In exchange for this flexibility, they will be expected to produce specified results.

They will report quarterly to the Ministry of Education, be monitored by the Partnership Schools Advisory Board and will be subject to Education Review Office (ERO) reviews.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped us reach this milestone today.

I acknowledge the work of the Partnership School Working Group who designed the policy framework, and the Authorisation Board who provided advice on the applications.

Special thanks to Catherine Isaac for her leadership of both.

I would also like to thank all the applicants who put forward Partnership School proposals.

The level of interest from those keen to make a difference for our priority students was high, and I thank them for the time and effort they put into their applications.

Finally, thank you to Minister Parata for giving this policy priority in what is a very busy portfolio.

You have been a passionate advocate for New Zealand's priority students.

I look forward to seeing the first Partnership Schools open at the start of day one, Term One 2014.

ENDS

[Add a comment](#)



8 AUG 2013
1:40PM

COMMENTS

Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond

JOHN BANKS / SUBMISSION / ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION / PRIMARY INDUSTRIES / REGULATORY REFORM / RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

Freshwater is a vital component of human life and our economy. The management of the freshwater resource is therefore very important but as knowledge about freshwater evolves that management must adjust to avoid unnecessary scarcity or quality problems.

A key part of management is to oversee systems that efficiently allocate freshwater, avoiding the waste associated with both under- and over-exploitation. It is very important to get these systems right.

ACT acknowledges the valuable work undertaken by the Land and Water Reform on these issues, particularly in respect of its examination of the case for tradable rights or consents and the desirable design features of such a mechanism.


ACT's April 2013 submission on the government discussion document: Improving our resource management system stressed the value, environmentally and otherwise, of a system of well-defined and well-enforced property rights for resolving disputes over the allocation of natural and physical resources and maximising the well-being of people and communities.

That submission explained why government interventions of a specific nature might be desirable in situations of a public good character, but such interventions needed to be respectful of private property rights. The RMA differed markedly from the Public

Works Act in that respect.

Another problem with the RMA that this submission identified was the failure of its purpose statement to clarify whether the purpose was to improve the well-being of people in their community, or to sacrifice it to some other cause.

This submission on the government's March 2013 discussion document, Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond is largely supportive of the approach taken in this document, yet finds the same issues potentially arising to a significant degree.

Attachment	Size
 Read ACT's freshwater submission here	500.72 KB

[Add a comment](#)



Improving our resource management system - ACT's submission on the proposed RMA reforms

JOHN BANKS / SUBMISSION / RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

New Zealanders are rightly proud of our beautiful country.

8 AUG 2013
1:30PM

COMMENTS

The early colonists stamped their mark on the landscape, as did the cities that were built on the fruits they seeded. Our forbearers created the wealth and prosperity that makes an even more congenial environment more affordable.

The government's February 2013 discussion document, Improving our resource management system, makes the case that good resource management should improve both future economic prosperity and the quality of the environment. ACT strongly concurs.

ACT also strongly agrees with the document that the current resource management system is imposing costs, uncertainties and delays that are adversely affecting jobs, investment, and productivity. We would go further and say that the 900-page Resource Management Act 1981 (RMA) has become one of the greatest investment- and job-destroying machines that has been inflicted on New Zealanders.

The increasing focus on imposing petty paternalistic restrictions on the urban built environment is only making matters worse.

Auckland's housing affordability crisis is just one manifestation of this growing problem.

ACT broadly supports the reform directions in the discussion document, but does not consider that they get to the heart of the matter – the need to better confront disputants with the cost to communities of delivering what they want. Most RMA disputes are about the best use for a scarce natural or physical resource. Confronting the contending parties with the costs of securing the benefits they desire would improve both environmental and economic outcomes, for reasons which are explained in this submission.

Instead, the proposals in the discussion document tend to treat symptoms – such as delays and compliance costs – rather than causes. More intrusive central government direction and control would be a fine thing, if it were in the right direction; but not necessarily otherwise. Similarly faster decision-making might of little value unless it produces better decision-making.

ACT considers that National's recognition of the magnitude of the problems being caused by current arrangements creates a rare one-in-twenty-year opportunity to effect changes that can really make a difference. The most effective changes are bound to be ones that address fundamental causes.

In this submission ACT analyses the fundamental problems with the RMA, lists indicated (partial) remedies in general terms, and relates them to remedies put forward in the government's discussion document. An appendix suggests how the indicated remedies might be implemented through drafting changes to specific sections of the RMA.

The concluding section points out that what is really needed is a more comprehensive review of the RMA in the context of other relevant legislation, including the Local Government Act. Moreover, government ownership in itself can independently weaken accountability for poor environmental and commercial decisions.

These are important matters for the well-being of New Zealanders.

No one wants to see environmental quality in New Zealand deteriorating, along with relative living standards, when materially better outcomes are attainable from better policy settings.

ACT welcomes careful, reasoned public debate about the best remedies for the RMA's fundamental problems. This contribution is made in that spirit.

Attachment	Size
 Read ACT's submission on the proposed RMA reforms here	614.77 KB

[Add a comment](#)



Contrived hysteria about 'gutting' RMA is silly

JOHN BANKS / BLOG

This blog post is in response to this story <http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/opinion/8945373/Gutting-the-RMA-its-time-to-be-concerned> published in the Sunday Star Times.

7 AUG 2013
2:05PM

COMMENTS

Anton Oliver is one of New Zealand's rugby greats. His love for New Zealand's natural environment is something all New Zealanders should applaud.

Anton is right. Kiwis expect to be able to swim, fish, camp, kayak and surf in our customary and treasured places, and rightly so.

New Zealand is doing pretty well in these respects. The Ministry for the Environment comments that:

By international standards, fresh water in New Zealand is both abundant and clean. We have plenty of rain which replenishes our streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater.

Of course, we can and should do better. The Ministry also observes that water quality in some urban and rural areas is degraded, and is coming under increasing pressure as land use intensifies.

Anton fears that the Government's planned changes to the Resource Management Act (RMA) will 'gut it'. He assumes there is a conflict between economic development - i.e. greater material prosperity for New Zealanders - and a cleaner environment. He cites Sir Geoffrey Palmer and the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in support of this view.

This view is not correct.

The overwhelming evidence in industrialised countries is that rising prosperity in the 20th century has gone hand in hand with a cleaner environment.

Bjorn Lomborg documented this exhaustively in his book *'The Skeptical Environmentalist'*. Days of pea-soup fogs in London are long gone. Talk of acid rain in Germany is a memory. Days of smog from temperature inversion and householders; coal fires in Christchurch have gone the same way. Pollution from effluent in meatworks in Wellington harbour has gone.

The reason why there is fundamentally no conflict between greater prosperity and a clean environment is obvious. People value quality of life. The wealthier they are the more affordable quality of life becomes.

Kiwis are no different. We will not allow this country to turn into a cesspool, RMA or no RMA. Other countries have done much to clean up their environment without the RMA. There is no reason to think that without our RMA there would have been 'fatal haemorrhaging'. New Zealanders would not tolerate that. Without the RMA there would have been replacement options for dealing with environmental issues.

New Zealanders can and should use our natural resources to improve both material prosperity and the quality of life. This is surely what is meant by 'getting the best returns from natural resources'. It does not mean leaving them *all* in their natural state.

That would mean no farming in New Zealand and no generation of electricity from coal, gas or water. But using them for the greater well-being of New Zealanders does not necessitate lowering the quality of life.

In my view, the key point for public debate is whether the RMA is about enabling New Zealanders to improve their well-being -- or sacrificing their well-being to the cause of

protecting 'the environment'.

I have no doubt that the vast majority of New Zealanders believe that the RMA should exist in order to help them to improve their well-being. However, there are still many problems and absurdities caused by the RMA and they want governments to fix them.

The contrary view to this is that humans are the problem. According to this view, it is the human desire to improve one's well-being that is a threat to the environment. The environment needs to be protected from human activity, because humans are fundamentally exploitative and short-sighted. This view leads to the hubris that environmentalists are the only people who really care about the environment.

This view is ridiculous. Kiwis take pride in their homes. They seek to improve their properties. They don't commonly turn their backyards into cesspools. And they care about their pets.

The despoliation of the environment and destruction of species that environmentalists fear is most likely to occur when no-one owns the resource, or when the owner is a government that stands above the law. Open access fisheries tend to be of the former nature.

New Zealanders should rejoice in the fact that our country has one of the most sustainable, non-subsidised fishing industries in the world – due to the creation of the transferable quota private property right scheme in the 1980s.

I know the Minister for the Environment well enough to know that she has no intention of gutting the RMA, and enjoys New Zealand's wonderful out-door environment as much as any other Kiwi.

Contrived hysteria about 'gutting' the RMA is silly. It is not a case of preferring economic development to environmental 'protection'; it is case for putting human evaluations at the centre of decisions about resource use.

[Add a comment](#)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... [next >](#) [last »](#)