

13 February 2026

Committee Secretariat
Governance and Administration Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington
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Retail NZ submission: Emergency Management Bill

Overview

1. Retail NZ is a membership organisation that represents the views and interests of New Zealand's retail sector. We are the peak body representing retailers across Aotearoa, with our membership accounting for nearly 70% of all domestic retail turnover. New Zealand's retail sector comprises approximately 30,000 businesses and employs around 227,000 Kiwis.
2. Retail NZ consulted our membership in the preparation of this submission.
3. Retail NZ is largely supportive of the Bill and its objective to strengthen and modernise New Zealand's emergency management system.
4. The Bill's clearer roles and responsibilities, stronger national coordination, focus on minimising disruption to essential services, and more flexible regulatory framework will all support community resilience and critical supply chain continuity during an emergency event.
5. Retail NZ also supports clarification in the Bill that when a road or public place is closed during a state of emergency or transition period, access may still be granted to any class or group of persons.

Recommendations

6. Retail NZ recommends that clause 130 should expressly provide for the statutory authority to decide to treat roads as "open" for specified essential-service classes, including food, fuel and other goods and services essential to the needs of the region/area impacted by the State of Emergency, even when the road is closed to the general public.
7. We also recommend this Bill strengthens requirements for the timely flow of information from essential infrastructure providers to essential services and on to organisations that rely on that to deliver essential goods and services (e.g., road reopening status, detour suitability, restoration timeframes).

Conclusion

8. Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. Retail NZ is supportive of this Bill progressing, provided some further clarification around the access of restricted roads for

essential the delivery of essential goods and services, such as grocery, food and crucial equipment, and the timely flow of information in these circumstances.

9. Retail NZ is happy to discuss any aspect of this submission further.
10. No part of this submission should be withheld under the OIA.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Young

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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