



PO Box 15-668, New Lynn, Auckland 0640

12 May 2016

Local Government and Environment Committee

RE: Wildlife (Powers) Amendment Bill.

I am writing on behalf of the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society (WRPS) to submit on the *Wildlife (Powers) Amendment Bill* (hereafter the Bill).

The WRPS was incorporated in 1973. Its purpose is the conservation and protection of the Waitakere Ranges and to oppose any activity that may threaten or adversely affect the natural environment in the area.

WRPS and its members are strong advocates for the conservation and protection of the natural environment of the Waitakere Ranges and was one of the key groups promoting the concept of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) for 35 years before it was achieved through an Act of Parliament in 2008.

While there is limited Department of Conservation land in the Waitakere Ranges, there are a number of native and endangered species and it is necessary that rangers have the appropriate skills and powers to monitor, protect and enforce activities related to these species.

Therefore, the WRPS is supportive of the Bill's objective to reduce offending against wildlife by improving the available powers including:

- the power to intervene
- the power to stop a person
- the power to require suspected offenders to provide identification
- the power to seize materials in evidence of an offence.

We support the limiting of these powers to full time Department of Conservation rangers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Edgar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Edgar ONZM
President
Waitakere Ranges Protection Society