

Travis Wetland Trust
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8 June 2016

Commercial, Consumers & Communications Branch
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment
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Submission on Exposure Draft: Incorporated Societies Bill

General comments

Travis Wetland Trust (TWT) is operating successfully and without legal issues as a society under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957. Transitioning to being a society under the proposed Incorporated Societies Act 2016 would not be disruptive to the day to day functioning of the TWT, as it is already administered as a society with a board elected by a membership at an AGM. However, transitioning to being an incorporated society would require a new constitution and a name change with all the consequent costs and loss of name recognition, which the TWT has spent considerable time and effort developing over the last 21 years. This transition would have no advantages for the TWT, but several significant costs.

Comments on specific clauses

Subpart 4—Amendments to Charitable Trusts Act 1957, clause 197:

The TWT would like any amendments to Section 8 of the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 to allow the continued operation of bodies such as the TWT. That is, such bodies should not be forced to transition to being an incorporated society.

Modifying the TWT constitution to comply with the proposed Incorporated Societies Act 2016 would be acceptable, but the TWT strongly prefers to be able to remain a trust and not have to drop the word “Trust” from its name. Renaming the TWT would be expensive and be confusing for its members, supporters and the community.

Withheld