

## 10. PROSTITUTION REFORM BILL

Mr Peter Mitchell (Director of Legal and Secretariat Services) reported orally to the Committee on the Prostitution Reform Bill currently before Parliament.

The draft Bill had passed the Committee of the Whole House Stage by 62 to 57 votes. The Bill would now go to its third and final reading in the next few weeks. Debate at this stage would be confined to the general principles of the Bill, in the nature of a “summing up” rather than a clause by clause debate.

The Committee was informed that the current position was likely to be (subject to viewing a Third Reading version):

- (a) Territorial authorities have a bylaw making power to regulate the location of brothels. The authority may not prohibit across a whole district, but may prohibit in part of the district, regardless of size. This avoids existing use rights arguments, but may cause enforcement difficulties.
- (b) Territorial authorities have the power to control signage advertising commercial sexual services because there is a nuisance or they are incompatible with existing character or use.
- (c) When granting resource consents authorities must have regard to whether it is likely to cause a nuisance or is incompatible with existing character or use. Plan provisions can still exist.
- (d) A licensing regime for operators will be administered through the District Court.
- (e) The Prostitution Law Review Committee will review who administers the licensing regime in 3-5 years.