

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO LAW COMMISSION REPORT ON  
MODERNISING NEW ZEALAND'S EXTRADITION AND  
MUTUAL ASSISTANCE LAWS**

Presented to the House of Representatives

# **GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO LAW COMMISSION REPORT ON MODERNISING NEW ZEALAND'S EXTRADITION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE LAWS**

## **Introduction**

The Government has carefully considered the Law Commission's report, *Modernising New Zealand's Extradition and Mutual Assistance Laws* (NZLC R137) (the Report) presented to the House of Representatives on 10 February 2016, and responds to the report in accordance with Cabinet Office Circular CO (09) 1.

## **Government Response**

The Government wishes to thank the Law Commission for the Report and for its work throughout its comprehensive review of this area of law.

The Government agrees with the Law Commission's conclusion that new legislation to replace the Extradition Act 1999 and the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1992 should be considered for enactment. The Government accepts the recommendations to consider enactment of the Extradition Bill and the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and for the Recovery of Criminal Proceeds Bill attached to the Law Commission's report.

While we accept the Law Commission's position, further work is needed to finalise the detail of the proposed new legislation. The recommended changes involve relatively complex matters, many of which carry uncertain costs and benefits which will require consultation with stakeholders and regulatory impact analysis.

The Government has directed the Ministry of Justice to analyse the remaining Law Commission's more detailed recommendations and report back. This work will take considerable project resources and the timing for the report back will need to be balanced alongside other competing Government priorities.