



# Farm Debt Mediation Bill

62—1

Report of the Economic Development, Science  
and Innovation Committee

October 2018

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## Farm Debt Mediation Bill

### Recommendation

The Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee has examined the Farm Debt Mediation Bill and recommends that this bill not proceed.

### About the Farm Debt Mediation Bill

The bill is a Member's bill in the name of Mark Patterson MP. It would amend the Receiverships Act 1993 to include mediation as a mandatory step before the appointment of a receiver in respect of agricultural debt. The bill would:

- defer the appointment of receivers until at least 10 working days after the mediator's summary of mediation
- require the Banking Ombudsman to arrange for suitably qualified and experienced persons to be accredited as mediators.

### Reason for recommending that the bill not proceed

We received a letter from the Primary Production Committee on 18 September 2018 which advised us that Mark Patterson wishes to withdraw the bill. He has stated that the bill will instead be introduced as a Government bill. For this reason, we recommend that the bill not proceed.

## Appendix

### Committee procedure

The bill was referred to the Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee on 16 May 2018. On 2 June 2018 we asked the Primary Production Committee to consider the bill under Standing Order 293.

The Primary Production Committee called for submissions on the bill, with a closing date of 3 August 2018. The committee considered and received 17 submissions from interested groups and individuals. It heard oral evidence from the member in charge of the bill, Mark Patterson MP, and four other submitters at hearings in Wellington. The committee received advice from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry for Primary Industries.

As the bill was referred to this committee, we are reporting it back to the House.

### Committee members

Jonathan Young (Chairperson)  
Tamati Coffey  
Paul Eagle (until 15 August 2018)  
Andrew Falloon  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Gareth Hughes  
Melissa Lee  
Jo Luxton (from 15 August 2018)  
Clayton Mitchell  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
Lawrence Yule

Poto Williams replaced Hon Aupito William Sio for some of the consideration of this bill.

### Advice and evidence received

The documents that we received as advice and evidence are available on the Parliament website, [www.parliament.nz](http://www.parliament.nz).