What is the Food Bill (Food Bill 160-2)?

The Food Bill turns the basic right to grow food and share it into a government authorised privilege that can be summarily revoked. The Government has created this bill to keep in line with its World Trade Organisation obligations under the international Codex Alimentarius scheme, which will be implemented in NZ as soon as the bill is passed.

Codex Alimentarius (“The Law of the Food”) places severe restrictions on the content of natural remedies, vitamins, minerals and therapeutic compounds in food, drinks and supplements etc.

**UNDER THE FOOD BILL:**

- The human right to grow “Food” to share becomes a government authorised privilege subject to Codex regulations - it will be illegal to grow food to share without authorisation, and this authorisation may be revoked at any time.

- “Food” is defined in such a way that it includes nutrients, seeds, natural medicines, essential minerals and drinks (including water).

- Already escalating food prices will be pushed up further as producers are subjected to red tape and registration costs.

- Restrictions on the trade of food and seed would quickly lead to the permanent loss of heirloom strains, as well as a general lowering of plant diversity in agriculture.

- The way is paved for a handful of corporations (such as Monsanto) to take control of our food production and supply.

- Codex regulations can be legally enforced by ‘Food Safety Officers’ who may enter premises without a warrant using all equipment they deem necessary - including guns (Clause 265 - 1). ‘Food Safety Officers’ may be police, or members of the private sector (e.g. Monsanto employees) backed by armed Police. (Clause 243)

The Food Bill 160-2 must be opposed. This is our food sovereignty, our ability and our right to grow and provide our own food for ourselves and our communities. Cottage industry, heritage seed and community garden initiatives must be supported rather than strapped with red tape by central government.

The Food Bill has had its select committee hearings and is awaiting its second reading, as of September 2011.

**THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!**

- write to your MP - talk to friends - write to ‘letters to the editor’ - tell your neighbour - go on talkback radio - copy this sheet and hand it around - pin them to public noticeboards - sign or start a petition - do something!