



THE RULES COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 180

Wellington

Telephone 64-9-9169 755

Facsimile 64-4-4949 854

Email: rulescommittee@justice.govt.nz

The Rules Committee has arranged a series of open meetings as part of the consultation process for the reform of the law of discovery. The proposed reforms aim to modernise the rules relating to discovery by making electronic discovery and inspection the default position and by changing the current *Peruvian Guano* test governing standard discovery to a narrower one of 'adverse documents'. In addition, the changes will mean that parties have a defined duty to cooperate with each other during the discovery and inspection process. Overall, the proposed changes should reduce the current burdens associated with discovery, and particularly electronic discovery.

A full description of the proposed rules can be found in the consultation paper issued in December 2010, available from the Rules Committee webpage at www.courtsofnz.govt.nz.

The Rules Committee invites all practitioners to attend any of the meetings listed below at which there will be the opportunity to raise questions and comment on the proposed rules.

Auckland: 16 February 2011, 5.30 pm at the Wintergarden, Northern Club, 19 Princes St, to be followed by a cash bar at the Pullman Hotel (previously the Hyatt).

Wellington: 21 February 2011, 5.00 pm at the Law Society Building, 26 Waring Taylor Street, to be followed by a cash bar.

Christchurch: 3 March 2011, 5.30 pm at the Victorian Room, Copthorne Hotel, 776 Colombo Street, to be followed by a cash bar at the hotel.

Members from the sub-committee on discovery will introduce the proposed changes and gather feedback on them. This will include Andrew King (Litigation Support Consultant), Laura O'Gorman (Buddle Findlay), Lynn Holtz (Chapman Tripp), Justice Chambers, and Justice Fogarty (Chair of the Rules Committee). The meetings will be led by Justice Asher.

All practitioners with an interest in this reform should attend.

For more information on the events or to **RSVP** please contact the Clerk, Caroline Anderson at Caroline.Anderson@justice.govt.nz.