

Privatisation of New Zealand's Seas?

Appalled at the shabby and undemocratic bullying by Government, the Coastal Coalition continues fighting for justice with a petition for a Citizens Initiated Referendum (CIR) on restoring Crown ownership of the foreshore and seabed.

Why keep fighting this battle?

A. Corrupt process:

- Short submission time (3 weeks); cursory treatment of non-Maori.
- Racially prejudiced - Select Committee with voting rights were 100% of Maori descent.
- Politicians blatantly misled the public; Media shutdown opposition.
- Unprecedented number of submissions; 90% against; 90% ignored.
- Attorney General Chris Finlayson's conflict of interest with Nga Tahu.

B. Shoddy & unconstitutional:

- Preferential laws for people of any Maori descent, including the privileged or "mostly white" Maori.
- Undefined Maori terms means claim thresholds are a farce.
- Claims not proven in High Court – Iwi can gain control of the sea by secret, political negotiation.
- Government can now exchange coastal assets for Maori votes at will.
- Taxpayers responsible for all claim expenses & any demands Maori make on "elected" local government (like Auckland City Council's Maori Advisory Board).
- Iwi able to on-sell coastal "rights" to foreigners (or even wealthy politicians).
- 3 levels of Maori "management" control New Zealand's entire coastline.

C. Damaging ramifications:

- Privatisation of coast and minerals for Iwi. Crown loses potential of \$trillions from offshore mining which could pay for health, education and welfare.
- Public access can be denied by "wahi tapu" for superstitious or religious claims; public fined up to \$5,000.
- Coastal businesses beholden to whims of Iwi - absolutely no right of appeal or arbitration.
- Claims already being negotiated for popular areas (settlements unlikely to be announced prior to election!)
- Entrenching of feudalism, restricting options for Maori underprivileged. Elite leaders benefit; little flow-on to the ordinary Maori person.
- Coastal lifestyles restricted, relationships harmed. Tourists turned off.
- Confusion and arguments determining which Iwi or individuals have control over what.

So who really loses from this legislation?

ALL NEW ZEALANDERS LOSE! It contradicts everything good about our country i.e. **one law for all**, egalitarianism, democracy, racial harmony, free and easy coastal recreation, sound economics, established and proven legal process.

Government mustn't be allowed to harm New Zealand's future in this way.

Whether you can gather 2 or 200 signatures, the Coastal Coalition needs your help please download and print a Referendum Form from www.CoastalCoalition.co.nz