

To the Chairman of the Maori Affairs Select Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Tena koe, tena koutou,

Statement on the Marine and Coastal Area Bill

My name is Roimata Tauroa. This is my statement on behalf of myself, my whaanau, hapuu and marae.

The proposed Marine and Coastal Bill is a breach of our rights to our takutai moana and should be withdrawn immediately.

My statement is based on the following:

1. The Bill confiscates Iwi and Hapuu rights to the marine and coastal areas. It removes Maaori title and vests it in the Crown on behalf of 'all New Zealanders'
2. The Bill is a severe breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi under article two that states "The Queen of England agrees to protect the chiefs, the subtribes and all the people of New Zealand in the unqualified exercise of their chieftainship over their lands, villages and all their treasures"
3. The Bill breaches the mana of Maaori over environmental, cultural, waahi tapu, fisheries and conservation authority by severing our continued relationship with our lands and vesting them under Crown ownership and control.
4. Most iwi will fail to prove continuous use of their lands since 1840 as lands were removed unjustly, they will therefore be denied customary title and the lands will be subject to Crown ownership and control. This is discriminatory.

5. The Bill discriminates against Maaori by treating customary title as a lesser form of title than freehold title by allowing public access to Maaori lands where private title holders are not required to do and permits absolute Crown ownership of certain minerals in the 'common space' with further power to grant licenses for those minerals. It asserts Crown ownership rights over an area that no-one is supposed to own. This is discriminatory to Maaori.

Maaori rights are discriminated against in this Bill. It will not bring a durable resolution nor a just one. It must be withdrawn immediately.

Naaku noa

Roimata Tauroa

Ngaati Korokii-Kahukura, Ngapuhi, Ngati Kearoa, Ngati Tuara, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Maniapoto.