

## Foreshore and seabed – ring a bell?

The human rights laws and standards that were breached with the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 are likely to be breached in the case of water:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi – reaffirmed tino rangatiratanga.
- NZ Bill of Rights Act 1990;
- NZ Human Rights Amendment Act 2001;
- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights



## IS THIS CONFISCATION?!

What can you do?

Talk to your whanau

Talk to your marae

Talk to your hapu

Talk to your iwi

Take some action!!!

- Maori MPs want to hear from you! So fax/ph/visit and tell them your views on water and what you want them to do about it!
- Check the Ministry for the Environment website for information of what has already happened:  
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/water/>
- Check the [AE!] website below for iwi action and national events.  
<http://aotearoa.wellington.net.nz>
- Or  
<http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/water.htm>



[AE!]

Aotearoa Educators

# WATER

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## Who manages water now?

Regional councils: water quality and resource consents for discharges and allocations.

District and city councils deal with supplying water and managing waste water treatment services such as sewage. **What has happened**

### to wai ora?

Over the years our waterways have been polluted. Iwi across the country have protested such pollution, including at Lake Rotorua, Rotoiti, Waikaremoana, Whanganui, Waikato.



Big international companies (Nestle, Coca Cola, Danone) dominate the bottled water market. Any privatisation of water supply will also end in corporate control.

## What is on the Govt's agenda? Privatisation!

### The story so far...

- 2003 Sustainable Water Programme of Action began – to look at the management of water quality and sustainable use of water.
- 2005 'consultation' –Maori said it's a Te Tiriti o Waitangi, tino rangatiratanga, kaitiakitanga issue and Maori need to be involved in decision-making about water.
- 2006 Government has not explored ownership issues with Maori and is writing National Policy Statement or National Environmental Standards.

### Are there alternatives?

#### YES!

In Spain, Brazil, Bolivia, France and Malaysia there are successful examples of cooperatively managed water supplies. Members of the community use sustainable and financially viable options for managing water.

## GOVT'S CLAIMS:



- That no one can own the water

**But** they are developing property rights in water as if they own it.

- That they are not privatising.

**But** they are encouraging the use of the market mechanism to manage water

- That if companies supply water to people (through 'public-private partnerships') then people will conserve water because they will have to pay for it.

**But** experiences in Bolivia and elsewhere have shown that when you privatise, or semi- privatise, companies just want to make bigger profits so they put meters in, the prices of water goes up and if you can't pay you get cut off!

- That there are no human rights implications.

**But** it looks like Maori might still have ownership of water under tikanga so if those rights are extinguished how could there **not** be human rights breaches?