

# An open letter to all Kiwis.

## **Our coastline is under threat from a racist bill.**

If you care about our country and the love affair that generations of Kiwis have had with our coast, please read this and help. Our beach-going culture is under imminent threat from the Minister of Treaty Settlements who is determined to give our precious coastline to Māori, through his Marine and Coastal Area Bill.

## **Let us explain.**

In 2010 the Minister of Treaty Settlements Chris Finlayson – a former lawyer for Ngai Tāhu – wanted to give the Urewera National Park to Tūhoe. But the public believe our National Parks should belong to all New Zealanders, not just Māori. When John Key realised how strongly the public were opposed to the deal, he stopped it.

Now the same Minister intends giving our beaches and territorial sea – and most of the riches that are under it – to a few privileged iwi. Again the public are overwhelmingly opposed. They believe the foreshore and seabed are the birthright and common heritage of all New Zealanders equally. Will John Key step in this time to stop the Bill?

## **The Prime Minister promised he would stop this bill if the public were opposed to it. Can we trust the Prime Minister to keep his word?**

When John Key announced National's plan to repeal Crown ownership of the foreshore and seabed, in March 2010 he said "if there was not wide support then the current law could remain in place". We are now calling on the Prime Minister to honour his promise. He shouldn't say one thing then do another.

Almost everyone who has looked beyond the rhetoric and half-truths issued by the Minister of Treaty Settlements and who has read the bill for themselves is overwhelmingly opposed to it. They believe the bill is bad for most Māori and worse for the rest of us.

Please help us stop our coastline being given away. Please help us convince the Prime Minister to honour his promise to the people of New Zealand and leave the current law in place

## **Please contact John Key. Ask him to honour his promise to withdraw this divisive and racist bill.**

**Please help us and take action now.  
The bill is scheduled to become law  
within the next two weeks!**

[CLICK HERE TO EMAIL](#)

**Please forward this message on to everyone you know and ask them to help fight the bill.**

# What else can you do?

Contact all the other National MPs.

[CLICK HERE TO EMAIL](#)

**Tell them they have lost your vote if they pass this racist bill.**

**Ask them if they have actually read the bill. Don't be put off by propaganda and misinformation. Ask them some hard questions.**

- Ask them if it's fair that the threshold test for customary title has been significantly lowered to make it easier for iwi to claim? \*
- Ask them if it's fair that iwi won't have to prove their claims in court?
- Ask them if it's fair that politicians can give away your beach without asking you, telling you, or giving you any right of appeal? Ask them if it's fair that politicians can swap your beach for votes in a coalition deal with the Māori Party – just so they can stay in power?
- Ask them if it's fair that traditional local usage has been extended to "customary interests" giving iwi power over the entire coastline. In addition customary title gives iwi more rights to: minerals; all newly found "taonga tūturu"; other development rights; and the right to develop a plan which regional councils must recognise and provide for? \*
- Ask them if it's fair that iwi will be able to exclusively develop the marine area, including fish farming, without (according to legal experts) having to ask the public?
- Ask them if it's fair that iwi will be able to veto the rights of others to commercially use the coast?
- Ask them if it's fair that the bill turns the burden of proof around so the Crown will now have to prove customary rights were legally extinguished, rather than iwi having to prove they were not? \*
- Ask them if it's fair that iwi will be able to ban people from all beaches and fishing spots by declaring wāhi tapu (and fine you \$5000 if you trespass)?
- Ask them if it's fair that one in ten kilometres of our coastline could be given to iwi as soon as the bill passes into law? And the Māori Party has said they won't be satisfied until the entire coast is in Māori hands.

Thank you for caring about our coast and our country. This issue is at the heart of what it means to be a New Zealander, and whether you want a future united as one people or a future divided by race.

On behalf of the Coastal Coalition:



Dr Muriel Newman  
New Zealand Centre for  
Political Research

Dr Hugh Barr  
Secretary, Council of Outdoor  
Recreation Associations of New Zealand

## John Key still needs every vote.

Contact Peter Dunne – ask him to oppose the bill:

[peter.dunne@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:peter.dunne@parliament.govt.nz)

In 2004 he led a march in Nelson opposing the race-based carve up of New Zealand's coastline. Ask him why he is supporting this bill now [see here](#)

## Help us fight the bill:

The Coastal Coalition is a grass roots movement formed to oppose National's plan to carve up the coast along racial lines.

You can find out more about this whole outrage from

[www.CoastalCoalition.co.nz](http://www.CoastalCoalition.co.nz)

Tens of thousands of Kiwi families have supported our campaign. Your donation will help us reach the public with information like this – so more New Zealanders can understand what's actually going on. [Click here to help](#)

\* Source: briefing paper by the Māori Party to iwi describing how much they will gain from this new bill. View at [www.CoastalCoalition.co.nz](http://www.CoastalCoalition.co.nz)