



New Zealand, are we about to be crippled...permanently?

If we're not careful, our nation could end up paying a very high price for National's coalition deal with the Maori Party.

New Zealand could end up forever divided along racial lines.

The deal that was done

In 2008, in return for the Maori Party's coalition support, the National Party agreed to a \$4 million 'review' of New Zealand's constitutional arrangements. An appointed Constitutional Advisory Panel is due to make recommendations to the government later this year. Any changes will be made either by a vote in Parliament or through a binding referendum of voters.

The dangers that await

New Zealand's constitution consists of a collection of statutes, conventions, and common law rights that together set out the basic rules by which our country is governed. With supreme law-making power held by elected Members of Parliament who can be sacked if they lose the confidence of voters, New Zealand has one of the strongest parliamentary democracies in the world. Those calling for a Treaty-based constitution want to transfer that ultimate law-making power to unelected judges who are not accountable to the public.

A Treaty-based constitution

The likely outcome of this review is a proposal to place the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in a written constitution based on biculturalism.

This would mean that all Acts of Parliament would be tested against these principles and the rights outlined in the Treaty would be enforced in a way that's not possible at present. In effect such power would legally enforce Waitangi Tribunal decisions as well.

The governance of New Zealand would be radically changed. Under a Treaty-based constitution, the **claims process would never end** and could include private property and public resources, as well as giving those of Maori descent priority to public funding and rights to co-governance

Here is an Alternative

The Independent Constitutional Review (ICR) was established in response to the Maori Party's review. We believe **democracy should be based on citizenship**, not ethnicity - all citizens should be treated equally, with equal rights and equal opportunity. That's fair. If you agree, please sign our **Declaration of Equality**:

We, New Zealanders of all backgrounds, having founded and developed our society in equality, fairness, and comradeship, oppose any laws which establish or promote racial distinction or division. There shall be one law for all.

- We reject any reference to the Treaty of Waitangi or its principles in any constitutional document.
- We ask that such references be removed from all existing legislation.
- We ask that race-based Parliamentary seats be abolished.
- We ask that race-based representation on local bodies be abolished.
- We ask that the Waitangi Tribunal, which has outlived its usefulness, be abolished.

5 things you can do right now

- Sign the Declaration of Equality** at www.ConstitutionalReview.org
- Make a submission** on-line by visiting www.ConstitutionalReview.org so we can add your views to our ICR report
- Tell the government** what you think of a Treaty-based constitution – have your say at www.ourconstitution.org.nz
- Send a donation** so we can publish this advert throughout the country – donate on-line at www.ConstitutionalReview.org or clip and post the coupon below
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