

Letter to the Prime Minister



Dear Prime Minister,

We respectfully ask you to govern for *all* New Zealanders – not just the Maori tribal elite - by stopping the [Resource Legislation Amendment Bill](#) as currently drafted.

We are referring to the concessions you have given to the Maori Party to allow iwi chiefs to sit alongside elected council members and officials and co-govern the private property of others.

Various deals have been done but the most damaging are the sweeping new '*Mana Whakahono a Rohe*' agreements that will permanently force councils to kowtow to iwi - and hapu.

Your Minister for the Environment Nick Smith says their new powers will include, "plan-making, consenting, appointment of committees, monitoring and enforcement, bylaws, regulations and other council statutory responsibilities".

That also includes fresh water according to your Minister.

These agreements with Iwi Leaders were imposed on the country behind closed doors. The secret deals were shaped with no consultation, no publicity, no warning, and no published minutes or agendas. By giving iwi seats at the council table you will embed the Maori world view and spiritualism into the heart of local government. This is not what most New Zealanders want.

What is most galling is that you have not even asked the community what it thinks about the *Mana Whakahono a Rohe* agreements.

The reality is there is no community demand for Iwi Leaders to co-govern local authorities, but once the agreements are in place they will be there forever - nothing can change or remove them unless iwi agree. Councillors and the community will have no right to end them - even if 90 percent of voters decide they are not working. The fundamental protections of democracy and the rule of law will be forever lost.

The respected constitutional lawyer [Stephen Franks says](#), "The Bill entrenches permanent race privilege and corruption... The provisions are a major constitutional change. They subordinate powers entrusted to elected local governments, in deliberately obscure words, to racially inherited power, beyond the reach of electoral recall."

Prime Minister, where is your mandate for these radical changes? You did not campaign on them at the last election. For major constitutional change such as this, surely there should be a public referendum process. If you pass this Bill you will be betraying National Party founding principles - and letting down those who voted for you in 2014.

We understand that these agreements were planned before you became Prime Minister. We say it's now time for you to step up and show that you intend to govern for *all* New Zealanders, not just the 1.3 percent that supported the Maori Party. They are holding you to ransom because you want to keep power.

But in serving Iwi Leaders, you are paying for their demands with *our* rights, *our* properties, and, no doubt *our* cost.

Please stop this Resource Legislation Amendment Bill now - for the sake of *all* New Zealanders.

Note to Readers: This letter has been sent to the Prime Minister by the New Zealand Centre for Political Research (see www.nzcpr.com for more detailed information about the Bill). If you feel as strongly about this as we do, we would urge you to support this initiative by sharing your concerns with the PM - by emailing him at b.english@ministers.govt.nz or by phoning his Parliamentary office on 04-817-6801 or faxing 04-817-6501. Please act NOW. The Bill is ready to be passed into law this week. People power is the only way to stop it.