

Submission on review of Foreshore and Seabed Act

It is becoming clear that when the Seabed and Foreshore Bill was passed in 2004 there were a lot of misunderstandings going on.

Human society needs to be regulated in the interests of the common good. Of course, over-regulation is not good, lack of basic freedoms, etc. However, the more crowded the planet becomes, the more we need to conserve what assets we have and work for the fair distribution of goods and services in the various communities.. It is essential also to preserve the natural environment and places of wilderness.

The Crown is in itself a concept open to question. That which is owned by "The Crown" is not necessarily kept in trust for access by all New Zealanders, or groups of New Zealanders. The last 3 decades have seen sales of public assets to many overseas companies whose directors have never set foot in Aotearoa/New Zealand, nor are interested in doing so.....just as objects from which to make profits.

The Maori tribes, before the European invasions, had accepted areas of governance rather than ownership. To have legislated to give ownership of some areas of the foreshore and seabed to non-Maori and the Crown, is short-sighted as well as unethical. Where minerals and oil are known to exist in or under beaches and coastal areas, these may be exploited destructively, which will not be forgiven by future generations, whether Maori or non-Maori. Let us repeal the Act, but replace it with legislation which will be of real benefit to Maori, non-Maori and in fact those all of goodwill who would live without consumerism and greed and see the role of the living as guardians of nature for the wellbeing of future generations

Sincerely,
Julia Meek

I sent in a submission yesterday in some anxiety to get it there in time, but find it was lacking some of what I think is important.

It did not emphasize, as I meant it to, that the Act needs to be repealed as it does not comply with Treaty obligations and has not given justice to the tangata whenua.

My first submission suggested that no private ownership of the foreshore and seabed should be permitted in Aotearoa/NZ in perpetuity. Guardianship may be entrusted to Maori as tangata whenua. There should be a total ban on explorations for or exploitation of mineral resources that exist within or below the foreshore and seabed areas. Fishing and gathering of kai moana has to remain at sustainable levels. This is best administered by the tangata whenua.

I apologize for sending this in two bits, but hope that the impression of this part is of prime importance.