

Subject:

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I am totally opposed to any move by government to give away control of fresh water to iwi. Any such move presently would make a mockery of democracy. New Zealand law is clear: Fresh water is owned by no-one, regardless of who owns the land over which the water flows. I also oppose any move by government to pass the job of dealing with tribal demands for water to local authorities, this would create huge discrepancies and disparities from region to region and ultimately sow the seeds of disunity in a country that is presently populated by peoples from all over the world. I urge the the government not to disregards the fundamental democratic principal equality, upon which this issue rests and on which the National party once campaigned. There has been very limited public consultation on iwi claims to water to date, which is deeply disconcerting to say the least. All New Zealanders - regardless of race - are stakeholders with rights and interests in fresh water, and all voices deserve to be heard. Sincerely D. Govender