

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Water Consultation Submissions](#)
Subject: Water ownership.
Date: Monday, 11 April 2016 9:02:15 a.m.

To whom it may concern.

The ownership of water and waterways and the transferring of such to one body of people would have to be the most complex ideology ever presented here in New Zealand. With ownership of water would come reticulation, dams and rivers, streams and aquifer's. We have seen major flooding in New Zealand in recent times. Would the "owners" of the water be held liable for the costs involved in remedying the damage done? Would the "owners", due to full ownership be required, undertake remedial action to prevent such happening happen again? Who would engage contractors for such remedial works, who would do the design work and who would oversee the projects and who would pay for the works? If there was a loss of water for crops or agriculture would the "owners" be required to make good those losses?

Under the new Health and Safety in the Workplace Laws would the "owners" of the water be principals or directors and be held libel for up to \$600,000 in fines or imprisonment should any accident happen in or around any body of water in New Zealand?

On the other side of the ledger how would the sharing of water take place? Would it be "taxed"? Who would police the taxing and likewise who would ensure theft of water did not take place. Would there be free usage of water for fire fighting, say a rural house or store or a major fire as seen in Canterbury recently? Where would any line be drawn with the regard of usage of water?

Where are the lines drawn to these few of many considerations regarding the Iwi ownership of water? Is it the intention of the "Owners" to abdicate all responsibilities and leave this to the various councils and boards, as at present, and just lease every aspect of water in New Zealand to them or other agencies, and "clip the ticket" of water usage on an annual basis?

As at present water by and large is freely available to all New Zealanders with rules and laws which have evolved over the past one hundred and fifty years. Do not change what we have. There is no need, no justification. It will not advantage anyone but only disadvantage the majority of the country should the "Ownership" proposal go ahead. And on a social basis such action as proposed would cause a further widening of an already widening rift between the majority of New Zealanders and a very small chosen few.

Signed,

Donald Gordon Mackereth [REDACTED]