

**Subject:** who is to control water in Nz

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Dear Mr Key, We are writing to you because we have read quite a lot about a proposal by the National Government to pass on to local councils the responsibility regarding Maori claims under the Treaty of Waitangi for the control of fresh water in New Zealand. We are opposed to this arrangement: It lets the National Government off dealing with the issue head-on; a definite and transparent political move, and most New Zealanders , like us , want equality in this country and feel water belongs to the nation , not to one particular group of people, and should not be race - based. Like the Treaty itself , any arrangement in the future can be re-interpreted to suit the occasion and it will divide citizens. Now that the 'fiscal envelopes' are almost completed , this country should be looking to unite as New Zealanders and this proposal is counter -productive. We are greatly disturbed by this government 's sleight of hand over this issue and would welcome some robust and open discussion on a topic of such major importance to all New Zealanders. Yours sincerely, Richard and Mary Talbot.