

'Beaches for Recreation' Petition
of Bruce James Mason

To the House of Representatives of New Zealand. We, the undersigned, respectively request:
That the House of Representatives pass legislation that clearly establishes inalienable, sole Crown title, ownership, and authority over New Zealand's beaches, foreshore and seabed and guaranteed secure rights of recreation for all New Zealanders.

	(Print clearly in BLOCK letters)		(Print clearly in BLOCK letters)
	Signature	Surname or Family Name	Given or First Names
	Residential Address		
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Please return completed form (not copies) by 31 October 2003 to **Public Access New Zealand**, R D 1, Omakau 9182, Central Otago
www.PublicAccessNewZealand.org panz@es.co.nz

Beaches for Recreation Petition

This petition has been launched by Public Access New Zealand (PANZ) to provide a recreational users' view of the current controversy about the ownership of New Zealand's beaches, foreshore and seabed.

This is an opportunity to have your voice heard.

Why the petition?

A Court of Appeal decision has opened the door to Maori freehold title being issued over foreshore, including beaches, and the seabed. For the last 160 years this has been assumed to be part of the public domain, owned by the Crown on every ones' behalf.

The Court did not decide that Maori actually own or are entitled to ownership, only that any claims to customary use and title over particular areas are able to be heard before the Maori Land Court. If ownership or title were awarded this would be highly detrimental to New Zealanders as a whole, including Maori other than the new owners.

Government initially stated a firm position that legislative action will be taken reasserting the Crown's ownership. However, despite the limited nature of the Court's decision, Government is now in secret negotiation with Maori representatives and is concocting mechanisms to give Maori some form of ownership over ALL foreshore and seabed. This is while claiming that Crown 'title' will be preserved, as if ownership and title are materially different, and that public rights of use would be protected.

However the reality is that Crown ownership and control provides the only guarantee that public rights will be respected. This is what this petition seeks.

It is unfortunate that a National Party 'Beaches for All' petition on the same issue is deficient in that it does not expressly state an intention to pass legislation that guarantees Crown ownership or to create statutory rights of recreation. The PANZ petition seeks to rectify this.

The 'Beaches for Recreation' petition can be signed either on paper or on-line. It is available from—

www.PublicAccessNewZealand.org

—where further explanation for the petition can be found.

The original printed petitions (not copies) must be returned to PANZ before 31 October 2003. They will then be collated and presented to Parliament.

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