

## COOK ISLANDS AMENDMENT BILL

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Island of Palmerston is at present Crown land. It was originally settled by William Marsters in 1862, who held it under licence from the Crown, the last renewal of which expired on 31 December 1953. Under this licence all buildings and other improvements erected by the licensee reverted to the Crown at the termination of the licence. The present inhabitants of the Island are descendants of William Marsters, and the purpose of this Bill is to vest the island (with the exception of an area of 10 acres to be retained for administration purposes) in the Native inhabitants as customary land to be held by them according to their Native customs and usages. The Bill is retrospective to the termination of the last renewal of the original licence.

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*Hon. Mr Webb*

## COOK ISLANDS AMENDMENT

### ANALYSIS

Title.	2. Vesting of Island of Palmerston in Native inhabitants.
1. Short Title and commencement.	

### A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Cook Islands Act 1915. Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Cook Islands Amendment Act 1954, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Cook Islands Act 1915 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act). Short Title and commencement.

10 (2) This Act shall be deemed to have come into force on the first day of January, nineteen hundred and fifty-four.

2. Whereas the several islets comprising the atoll known as the Island of Palmerston are Crown land within the meaning of the principal Act: And whereas the Native inhabitants of the island are descendants of William Marsters who had settled there in the year 1862 when the island was uninhabited: And whereas the last renewal of the licence of that island granted by the Crown to the said William Marsters expired on the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and fifty-three, and the licence was not renewed, and it is expedient Vesting of Island of Palmerston in Native inhabitants.

that the island be vested in the descendants of the said William Marsters as customary land: Be it therefore enacted as follows:

Notwithstanding anything in the principal Act, the land comprising the Island of Palmerston (excepting an area of ten acres, including the site of the radio station and its ancillary buildings, the site of the water supply tanks and equipment, and the site of the schoolhouse, to be retained for administration purposes on the main islet and to be hereafter defined by the Native Land Court) is hereby vested in the Native inhabitants of the Island of Palmerston, and is hereby declared to be customary land within the meaning of the principal Act, to be held by the Native inhabitants of that island and their descendants according to their Native customs and usages.