



## Coal-Mines Act Amendment Act 1903

1903

- Citation:** 3 Edw. VII, No 80  
**Date of Assent:** 23 November, 1903  
**Commencement:** Date of Assent
- Repeal:** Repealed 1905, No 15  
**Amendments:** –  
**Type of Legislation:** Public  
**Subject:** Lakes, Rivers, Beds, Foreshores etc  
Mining  
Confiscated Lands
- Relevant Sections:** *s14:* Bed of navigable river deemed to have always been vested in Crown and all minerals absolute property of the Crown.  
Definition of “navigable river”.
- Commentary:** Section 14 is declaratory of the majority decision of the Court of Appeal in *Meuller v Taupiri Coal-mines Ltd* (1900), Stout CJ dissenting. The reasoning of the majority laid emphasis on the fact that the grants to the adjacent lands were military grants under the NZ Settlements Act 1863 and that the river was the only practicable highway for military and other purposes. No consideration of Maori rights to rivers or river beds. However, the 1950 Wanganui River Commission found that, but for this Act, the Wanganui Maori would own the bed of the Wanganui River, and that they should be entitled to compensation for the loss of ownership.
- Cross Reference:** *Meuller v Taupiri Coal-mines Ltd* (1900) 20 NZLR 89  
AJHR (1950) G - 2  
(*Wanganui River Commission*)  
Waitangi Tribunal *The Mohaka River Report* Wai 119  
(Brooker & Friend, Wellington, 1992) 35 - 38.