



Land Laws Amendment Act 1912

1912

- Citation:** 3 Geo. V, No 31
Date of Assent: 7 December, 1912
Commencement: Date of Assent
- Repeal:** Repealed 1925, No 15
Amendments: 1924, No 31: Repeals all except Parts III and IV.
Type of Legislation: Public
Subject: Govt Admin Specific to Maori/Maori Land
Alienation of Maori Land
- Relevant Sections:** *ss49 - 53: Agreement with owners of Native land*
s49: Native freehold land may be sold or leased under procedures of *ss41 - 48* of this Act as if it were European land. Native owners may appoint agents. Agents may exercise all the powers of owners with respect to the land. The proceeds of all sales of land shall be payable only to the Land Settlement Officer and after administration charges deducted the balance invested in trust for the Native owners.
s50: Minister may advance to Native owners out of Land for Settlement account proportion of estimated proceeds for sale.
s51: Renumeration of agents of owners.
s53: Every agreement made by agents of Native owners may be enforced by proceedings in Court.
- Commentary:** The Reform Government came to power with the promise to make more freehold land available for settlement, rather than the leasing system favoured by the Liberals. As part of this policy this Act provides that land owners can hand their estate to the Crown who will arrange surveys, roading and subdivision with the cost as a first mortgage on the proceeds to be gained from the owner selling or leasing the subdivided land. By including Maori freehold land in this general Land Act these provisions are made to apply to Maori land. The Government said that this system will give a fair market value of Maori land as sale is by tender. Ngata said that Maori would refuse to put their land under this system, as Maori had not trusted Maori Land Boards and were therefore not going to trust Crown Land Boards. Both Ngata and Te Rangihiroa object to this change in Maori land policy being in the Land Act rather than in the Native Land Act.
- Cross Reference:** NZPD vol 161 (1912) 277, 284, 325 - 333.