



## Native Trustee Act 1920

**Citation:** 11 Geo. V, No 21  
**Date of Assent:** 6 October, 1920  
**Commencement:** 1 April, 1921

**Repeal:** Repealed 1930, No 33  
**Amendments:** **1921, No 29:** See separate record.  
 s2 amends s3: status of Native Trust Office.  
 s3 amends s16(2)  
 s5 amends s18.  
**1922, No 54:** See separate record.  
 s3 amends s12.  
**1924, No 43:** See separate record.  
**1926, No 65:** See separate record.

**Type of Legislation:** Public  
**Subject:** Public/Native/Maori Trustee  
 Reserved Land

**Relevant Sections:** s2: Native Reserve defined as land vested in the Public Trustee under...  
 – the Native Reserves Act 1882  
 – the West Coast Settlement Reserves Act 1892  
 – the Westland and Nelson Native Reserves Act 1887  
 – any other Act in force where land is expressly vested in the Public Trustee as a Native reserve or administered by him for the benefit of Natives.  
 ss3 - 4: Establishment of Native Trust Office and appointment of Native Trustee.  
 s10: Establishment of Native Trust Office Board.  
 s13: Transfer of all Native reserves vested in Public Trustee to Native Trustee.  
 s14: References to Public Trustee in relation to Native reserves to be construed as Native Trustee.  
 s25: Consequential amendment of Native Land Act 1909 and amendments and Rating Act 1910 and amendments.

**Commentary:** In recognition of Maori needs for finance for land development the Native Trustee was set up to replace the Public Trustee in administration of Native Reserves. This followed the Report of a 1913 Commission regarding the Public Trustee Office (AJHR 1913 B - 9a) which found that there was a need for the Maori point of view to be

*Commentary and Cross Reference continued next page*



represented and that the Public Trustee, because of his other duties, could not always do that. The funds held by the Public Trustee and the Maori Land Boards are transferred to the Native Trustee who can lend out to Maori to improve their land. The Act is designed to encourage partitioning of land as the Native Trustee will not be able to lend on land held in common. The Native Affairs Minister, Herries, said "It will take them [Maori] out, I believe, of the communal system, which, in my opinion, is holding the Maori nation back." The Bill was supported by the Maori members because of its provisions for financing Maori land. Native Trust Boards are to be set up to distribute the loans, and Ngata suggested that the Boards should follow up the loan to see that it is being spent as was intended.

- Cross Reference:** NZPD vol 187 (1920) 965 - 981, 1227 - 1229  
NZPD vol 194 (1922) 90 - 95  
AJHR (1913) B - 9a  
*(Commission to Enquire into the Public Trustee Office)*  
AJHR (1921 - 1922) G - 4  
*(Native Reserves Accounts)*  
AJHR (1922) G - 2  
*(Native Trust Office)*  
AJHR (1931) G - 10, p.iii  
*(Native Land Development)*  
Butterworth G & Butterworth S *The Maori Trustee*  
(Maori Trustee, Wellington, 1991) 24 - 26, 28 - 38.