



## Urewera Lands Act 1921

1921

**Citation:** 12 Geo. V, No 55  
**Date of Assent:** 11 February, 1922  
**Commencement:** Date of Assent

**Repeal:** Still in Force  
**Amendments:** 1922, No 48: See separate record.  
s43 amends s16, Schedule.  
1923, No 32: s10.  
1930, No 40: s10.  
1931, No 32: See separate record.  
ss83, 96.

**Type of Legislation:** Public  
**Subject:** Validation  
Consolidation/Exchange Schemes  
Survey Issues  
Rating  
Alienation of Maori Land

**Relevant Sections:** s1: This Act may be cited as the Urewera Lands Act 1921 - 22.  
s2: All purchases of land purported to have been made by the Crown within the Urewera District deemed to have been valid.  
s4: Urewera Consolidation Commissioners to be appointed as recommended in the consolidation scheme.  
s5: Commissioners to ascertain Crown interests and allot portions. Portions to include land given by Natives to the Crown for roading purposes (£20,000 worth) and land representing the probable cost of survey of Native portions. Commissioners may include portion of Waikaremoana Block even if no instrument of alienation has been executed.  
s7: After first allotting land to the Crown, Commissioners may make awards to Natives of the balance of the land in the District (described in the First Schedule). Allotments to be made according to lists of people named in the scheme.  
s9: Commissioners may exchange Crown land if necessary for the purpose of consolidating interests. All lands so granted shall be deemed to be Native Freehold lands.  
s10: Money payable in equity in connection with any consolidation or exchange may be paid in cash or debentures.

*Relevant Sections, Commentary and Cross Reference continued over page*



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*s11:* Exchange of lands outside the scheme may be ordered if Commissioners think it expedient.

*s16:* Lands which are not awarded to the Crown shall be excepted from the term "rateable property" as defined by the Rating Act 1908.

*s17:* Crown to undertake all surveys required for the completion of any order under this Act.

**Commentary:** This Act set up a consolidation scheme in the Urewera Lands district as a Government response to the decline in sales of Maori customary land in the Urewera District. There is a good summary of the legislative history of this area in the Debates. By the 1920's both Maori and Crown interests were scattered in many different blocks. In order to utilise the Crown's interests for the purpose of settlement, informal negotiations were carried out and the direct background to the Act can be found in the report on the proposed Urewera consolidation scheme (AJHR 1921 - 1922 G - 7) which includes an historical review, maps, and lists of the affected Maori owners. An important aspect of this legislation is that as part of the Consolidation scheme, Native Freehold titles were to be issued for the Native interests. This meant individualisation of title with all its resulting implications. The Act provides that the Crown gets the bush around Lake Waikaremoana and Maori will give approximately £20 000 worth of land to the Crown as a contribution to roading costs. The roads were not constructed and the Maori Purposes Act 1958 authorised the payment of £100 000 compensation for the benefit of the Tuhoe people. Ngata warns that there is not as much land suitable for settlement in the Urewera as some people suppose.

**Cross Reference:** NZPD vol 192 (1921) 1110 - 1118  
 NZPD vol 194 (1921 - 1922) 90 - 95, 158 - 159  
 AJHR (1921 - 1922) G - 7  
*(Urewera Lands Consolidation Scheme)*  
 AJHR (1923) G - 7  
*(Urewera Lands)*  
 AJHR (1924) G - 7  
*(Urewera Lands Consolidation Scheme).*