



## Town and Country Planning Act 1953

1953

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| <b>Citation:</b>            | No 91                                  |
| <b>Date of Assent:</b>      | 26 November, 1953                      |
| <b>Commencement:</b>        | 1 February, 1954                       |
| <b>Repeal:</b>              | Repealed 1977, No 121                  |
| <b>Amendments:</b>          | –                                      |
| <b>Type of Legislation:</b> | Public                                 |
| <b>Subject:</b>             | Govt Admin with Direct Impact on Maori |
| <b>Relevant Sections:</b>   | –                                      |

**Commentary:** This Act provides for the making and enforcement of regional and district planning schemes with no specific reference to Maori land or interests. It was to be the subject of much Maori protest and was one of the Acts specifically mentioned by Te Matakite o Aotearoa during the 1975 land march. The criticism drew attention to zoning decisions which meant that Maori could not use their own land for their own purposes, such as housing, and that planning schemes designating Maori land, especially in coastal areas, as reserves denied Maori use of their own land. During the Debates on the Town and Country Planning Act 1977 Rata said that “In the past, communities have been zoned out of existence and peoples lives have been adversely affected”.

**Cross Reference:** NZPD vol 416 (1977) 5194 - 5200  
Walker R *Ka Whawhai Tonu Matou: Struggle Without End* (Penguin, Auckland, 1990).