



Maori Vested Lands Administration Act 1954

Citation: No 60
Date of Assent: 29 September, 1954
Commencement: Date of Assent

Repeal: Still in Force
Amendments: 1955, No 106: Repeals and replaces s75.
 1961, No 129: s18 amends s55.
 1967, No 124: See separate record.
 s150 inserts new s4A – alienation powers of equitable owners.
 s151 inserts new s4B – security over vested land.
 s152 inserts new s61A – sale of vested land to lessees.
 1970, No 120: s17 amends s70.
 1975, No 135: s9 repeals ss4A (1)(c) and 61A.
 1989, No 143.

Type of Legislation: Public
Subject: Public/Native/Maori Trustee
 Leased Land
 Maori Land Court: Structures & Jurisdiction
 Forestry
 Maori Land Boards
 Validation

Relevant Sections: s4: All vested land shall be held by the Maori Trustee in trust for the owners beneficially entitled.
 ss5 - 10: *Compensation for improvements.*
 s6: No right to compensation for improvements may be conferred on any lease where no such right is conferred in the actual lease.
 s7: Agreements between Maori Trustee and lessee for determination of lessee's right to compensation.
 s10: Land Valuation Court to determine disputes.
 s11: Valuer-General to cause special valuation to be made of land comprised in any subsisting lease.
 s15: If no objection is made to special valuation, notice to be given to lessee either requiring resumption of the land on payment to Maori Trustee of the full value or requiring election of a new lease of the land on the terms prescribed by this Act.
 s17: On delivery of possession of the land to the Maori Trustee, compensation for improvements to be paid.
 s18: Deduction for destroyed or depreciated improvements.

Relevant Sections, Commentary and Cross Reference continued next page



s21: Every new lease to be for a term of 21 years with right to renewal for further 21 years.

s29: Maori Trustee may reserve rights in respect to timber trees.

s32: Procedure where lessee does not accept new lease or renewal of lease.

ss35 - 54: Jurisdiction of Land Valuation Court.

s57: Provisions of this Act shall extend and apply to leases of certain other lands containing provision for the payment of compensation of improvements.

s60: Maori Trustee may lease land not subject to any existing lease.

s61: Maori Trustee may sell land with the consent of owners.

s63: Maori Trustee may grant timber cutting and other licenses.

s64: Maori Trustee may manage land as a farm.

s70: MLCt may revest any land vested in the Maori Trustee in the beneficial owners.

s73: Protection of leases of Otiranui Nos 2 and 3.

s74: Validation of leases by former Maori Land Boards.

s75: Restrictions on lessee removing timber.

Commentary: This Act follows the 1951 Royal Commission on Vested Lands but the recommendations of the Commission were rejected by both the lessees and the beneficial owners and this Act is the result of a negotiated agreement. The lands involved (mainly in the Aotea Maori Land Board District) had been leased by the Board for terms of up to 50 years and the lessees had been unwilling to relinquish the land upon expiry. This Act authorises the leases to be resumed by the owners upon payment of 2/3 of the value of the improvements. The Maori Trustee is to hold half the rent as a sinking fund for such payments. Tirikatene said that the 1905 Maori Land Board Act included a provision that money should be set aside for payments for improvements but that this had not been implemented.

Cross Reference: NZPD vol 304 (1954) 1549 - 1550, 1969 - 1978

AJHR (1951) G - 5

(Royal Commission on Vested Lands)

AJHR (1958) G - 9 pp.28 - 29

(Maori Affairs Department)

Butterworth G & Butterworth S *The Maori Trustee*

(Maori Trustee, Wellington, 1991) 77 - 78.