



## Public Works Act 1981

**Citation:** No 35  
**Date of Assent:** 3 October, 1981  
**Commencement:** Date of Assent

**Repeal:** Still in Force  
**Amendments:** 1982, No 182.

1983, No 150.

1987, No 61.

1987, No 67.

1987, No 201.

1987, No 110.

1988, No 43: See *s13* – amends *s41* Disposal of former Maori land where no longer required.

1991, No 87.

**Type of Legislation:** Public  
**Subject:** Public Works  
 Maori Land Court: Structures & Jurisdiction

**Relevant Sections:** *s17(4)*: Acquisition by agreement of Maori freehold land which is beneficially owned by more than four people and not vested in any trustees may be by application of the Minister to the MLCT.  
*s18*: Prior to the compulsory taking of Maori freehold land for essential works the Minister must negotiate for acquisition and may make an application to the MLCT.  
*s41*: Disposal of former Maori land, when no longer required for public works, may include an offer to sell back to the original owners or an application to the MLCT.

**Commentary:** The Government said that this consolidation and revision Act was designed to make clear that the compulsory taking of land, including the taking of Maori land, is more difficult for a Government to justify. Wetere said that the Maori Council had submitted that leasing arrangements could be used (such as at Huntly Power station) rather than actually taking the land.

**Cross Reference:** NZPD vol 438 (1981) 1484  
 NZPD vol 440 (1981) 3165 - 3182.