

To the Justice Select Committee,

1. Who Am I ?

I am a New Zealand citizen. My name is Jyotirmay Sarna. I am an a professional member of the International 'Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE), Ex New Zealand Public Servant and Ex Public Services Association (PSA) member. I want all New Zealanders to prosper and this bill has to directly or indirectly to voices being raised by prominent and respected kiwis in relation to civil war coming to in our country (Ensor, 2024). So, I wish to avert that in some little way via adding my two cents.

2. Why I am opposed to the 'Treaty Principles' bill?

The most esteemed Te tiriti O Waitangi has in my lifetime in New Zealand felt like the koroua/kuia akin glue for all kiwis. From my knowledge, it single handedly makes New Zealand the most, at least in intention, humane of all colonies ever established in human history. To me it is a miracle and I was most thankful to Providence for making me a citizen of New Zealand, due to it.

I come from a position of opposition to the Treaty Principles bill. The underlying intent is unquestionably noble for the bill, in my view, which I see as:

- To clarify once and for all, how it is to be implemented consistently in Nz Law.

This can be seen in the text of the proposed bill, where there is some details that can be referred to such as 'sub clause (1)'. The approach I feel could have been more conciliatory, though. I can explain.

Soon after the new Government arrived in 2023, there were reports in the media that public institutions have tried to reduce the use of Te Reo such as new Government's directive to agencies to primarily use their English names, rather than Māori (Rnz, 2023). This is a significant change to status quo, which in my humble ex public servant view, could have been better explained. At my university educated adult level, it seems unjustified also, given Te Reo Māori is the National language of NZ and English is only the default language. This was a development to me unbecoming of arguably our most ethical western democracy in the world, which has held stances like Nuclear free zone for our assets despite in ANZUS pact, which even the most ethical considered Scandinavian countries have struggled to voice. This was followed by many such developments in quick succession such as dissolution of Māori only health services, which I feel were rightly put into law over many previous decades to factually concerning skewed health and related outcomes such as demographics in prisons against NZ's Tangata Whenua/ natives/ Māori (New Zealand Parliament, 2024). These kind of outcomes are well documented and understood from study of colonised or ex-colonised societies and democracies

across the world have used some form of affirmative action in the 20th and 21st centuries.

It is based upon humanity welfare basis, even if the community it's for are not natives. In God's own, we were fortunate to use the 'Treaty principles', codified outside the constitution by the fourth labour government of Honourable Sir David Lange and Sir Roger Douglas (1980s) to drive such initiatives in a systematic manner (The Spinoff, 2024).

The reassuring thing since New Government arrived in 2023 was that Honourable PM Christopher Luxon seemed logical in his statements to me and I seemed comfortable in his leadership. Despite that, the Māori health authority was scrapped within months. The pace was disconcerting and the Honourable PM seemed to justify it as a sad outcome of heavily split coalition governments, like what we have now. This was then followed by the Treaty Principles bill, which is seen by most balanced kiwis in my view as another sudden initiative to limit common sense freedoms granted in previous governments. Of course, economy is important to any nation, still impacting the common sense foundations of a society at such pace indicates some sort of seemingly hidden agenda or decisions being made based on 'half thought out analysis', even to a non Māori kiwi like me. Thankfully, the Honourable PM has indicated that he will not support this bill in second reading, still this bill has impacted the trust most balanced kiwis have ingrained in their public institutions and I decided to put my submission in to oppose it.

3. My Recommendations

As I am an IEEE Engineering Professional and alumni of University of Auckland, I will provide my two cents constructive alternative to how to go about introducing a bill like this, as it is hard to fault the underlying intent of the Treaty Principles bill for trying to bring consistency in the application of law in relation to Crown's relationship with Te Tiriti O Waitangi. I feel I have by examples amply explained that there is a perception that:

- a. The primary impacted stakeholders of this bill are the Māori, and
- b. Narratives which can be better thought out, are being used in a rushed way to deprive Māori of their Mana, regained via civil rights movements in recent decades. This is poignant as prior to the civil rights movements, there was a century of unfortunate institutionalised disenfranchisement enabled by misapplication of the Te Tiriti. Its intent neglected by those in power (The Spinoff, 2024).

One of the key outcomes of this civil rights movement, which enabled the natives to regain their mana and New Zealand to redeem itself of its checkered past, was the Waitangi Tribunal. It is a public institution that participates in NZ law, albeit currently with decisions that are non binding, which has the trust of all kiwis.

There is natural case for it to lead such initiatives as the Treaty Principles bill. Hence, its involvement in such initiatives can be enhanced to a point that trust can be returned in parliamentary processes relating to New Zealand's founding document.

Current and Ex Honourable Prime Ministers have been talking about civil war in God's own this summer (New Zealand Herald, 2024). Hopefully, ethical and rational analysis can return to NZ Parliament, in an non violent way, so such we can live our lives as recommended in our National Anthem.

God Bless New Zealand forever| Kia manaakitia e te Atua a Aotearoa mō ake tonu atu (Microsoft's ChatGPT Artificial Intelligence Platform, 2025)

Yours faithfully | Nāku, nā

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6. Microsoft's ChatGPT Artificial Intelligence Platform.(2025). [Question asked by me] How to say 'God Bless New Zealand forever' in Maori. <url>