

2011

Finlayson

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Christopher Finlayson

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Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Bill passes first reading

The Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Bill, which guarantees the rights of all New Zealanders in the marine and coastal area, has passed its first reading in the House.

"Recreational interests in the common marine and coastal area, such as swimming, boating, walking, and fishing, are a birthright of all New Zealanders," Attorney-General Chris Finlayson said. "That's why public access, fishing and navigation in the common marine and coastal area are guaranteed."

"The bill does not take away rights; rather, it recognises and protects the rights of all New Zealanders, including Maori, to the common marine and coastal area of this country."

The Bill will replace the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004. It restores the right of iwi to seek customary title in particular areas of the Common Marine and Coastal Area.

The Bill was moved by Maori Party co-leader Tariana Turia, and passed by 106 votes to 15.

The Maori Affairs select committee will undertake a full round of public consultation on the bill, and report back to Parliament by 25 February 2011.

"I look forward to a full, constructive and thoughtful discussion of this Bill which will lead to a durable solution of the issue," Mr Finlayson said.

More information about the Bill is available here:

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/marine+and+coastal+area+bill+introduced+-+guarantees+public+access>

The Bill can be read here:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2010/0201/latest/DLM3213131.html>

The Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Bill Summary

- Repeals the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004.
- Applies to the area formerly known as the foreshore and seabed, which will be known in future as the marine and coastal area.
- Creates a common space in the marine and coastal area (the common marine and coastal area) which allows the interests and rights of all New Zealanders in the marine and coastal area to be recognised in law.
- Guarantees free public access in the common marine and coastal area
- Does not affect private titles in the marine and coastal area
- Guarantees and, in some cases, extends existing rights for navigation, ports, fishing and aquaculture.

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