

# Treaty Principles Bill Feedback Template

## Instructions – How To Use This Template:

1. **Open the Parliament [online submissions form](#).**
2. **Select whether you are giving feedback as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.** *You can also indicate whether you want to also make an oral submission.* Then click 'Next' to go to page two.
3. **Enter your details** (*note: the name you enter here will be published alongside your feedback at the end of the submission process, but your email will remain private. Adding your phone number is optional*). Click 'Next' to go through to page three.
4. **Scroll down to the two text boxes at the bottom of the page.** The first box is for your comments on TPB, and the second is for your recommendations.
5. **Enter Comments.** Copy the bullet points you agree with from the “*Comments Template*” below and paste them into the first text box on the Parliament online submissions form. It's important to use your own selection (and words if you can) so that your feedback is unique to you.
6. **Enter Recommendations:** Repeat this process using the “*Recommendations Template*” below, this time copying and pasting into the second box on the page. You will need to decide whether you:
  - a) Support the TPB.
  - b) Support the TPB with edits.
  - c) Oppose the TPB.
7. **When you are satisfied with your feedback, click next, confirm your details and responses,** download a copy of your feedback if you choose (click on the green PRINT button at the top right of the page) and then press the green Submit button at the bottom of the page. You will be sent confirmation of your feedback, which does not include your responses.

# 1. Comments on the Bill

In this section, you can make comments on the Treaty Principles Bill. Here are some potential comments you could use:

## **General comments:**

- The Principles have expanded in scope beyond what the text of the Treaty says due to the interpretations of Judges, Academics, the Public Service and the Waitangi Tribunal. They are being used as the basis for unpopular policies like co-governance and Maori wards. There has been no democratic input into this expansion of meaning.
- The Principles make it impossible to get anything done because Iwi/Hapu have to be consulted about everything at both a local and central government level.
- The Waitangi Tribunal process is being abused and has become a “gravy train”.
- I believe we do need to get a better handle on the ways the Treaty is used in New Zealand. However, I do not think the TPB is the correct approach. I prefer NZ First’s approach to removing or clarifying all references to the Principles in legislation.
- Although I oppose the current way the Treaty is being manipulated in New Zealand, I am concerned that the Treaty Principles Bill undermines New Zealand’s historic identity as a partnership between Europeans and Maori. The Bill and the ACT Party’s narrative is that New Zealand is to be a modern multiethnic liberal democracy. This comes across as globalist language that buries the fact that Europeans and Maori founded New Zealand. The multiethnic talking point also feeds into a mass migration narrative where anybody can come and go without care for New Zealand’s heritage/historic populations.

## **Comments on Principle 1:**

- Maori agreed to the British crown being sovereign when they signed the Treaty.
- Not all Iwi signed the Treaty; therefore, not all approved of British sovereignty. Article 2 implies that Iwi retained a degree of self-determination, which needs to be balanced against granting the British Crown the right to govern.
- It is impossible for New Zealand to function properly with divided sovereignty.

## **Comments on Principle 2:**

- I believe Article 2 of the Treaty guarantees Maori continued ownership of their lands, the exercise of their customary rights (e.g. use of fisheries), and a degree of “chieftainship” or self-determination over them.

## **Comments on Principle 3:**

- I believe that in addition to the rights in Article 2, Article 3 granted Maori the same rights as British subjects.

## 2. Recommendations on the Bill

In this section, you can make recommendations about the TPB. Here are some recommendations you could use:

### **I support the Treaty Principles Bill.**

- Because the Bill's description of what the Treaty means is much closer to a plain reading of the text than the current understanding of 'The Principles'.
- Because at present, 'The Principles' seem to just mean whatever Maori activists say they mean. They need to be clarified for the benefit of all New Zealanders.
- Because I believe all New Zealanders need to be equal before the law.
- Because at present, it is impossible to get anything done in New Zealand due to the extensive consultation required with Iwi.

### **I support the Treaty Principles Bill with the following edits/amendments:**

- Amend Principle 1 to acknowledge that not all Iwi ceded sovereignty to the Crown.
- Amend Principle 2 to explicitly grant Iwi a degree of Tino Rangatiratanga or self-determination should they wish to exercise it.
- Amend Principle 3 so as not to preclude the idea of indigenous rights.

### **I oppose the Treaty Principles Bill:**

- Because I prefer the New Zealand First approach of removing references to the Treaty Principles from legislation.
- Because I don't believe the Treaty has any 'Principles'.