

The Treasury

Release of Submissions: Mixed Ownership Model Consultation with Māori

Release Document

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www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/reviews-consultation/mixed-ownership/submissions

Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

Certain information in this document has been withheld under the following section of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

[1] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above. For example, an [1] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Listen to the people

The council is meant to be representative of the citizens, the people who voted for the council members.

The members are paid to serve the wishes of the community, and put aside any personal agendas. So why is it that after hundreds of letters and comments saying "Keep the prayer", Clive Solomon keeps at it? Is he serving the people, or is he simply ignoring them? Maybe he should remember who voted him into the council, and listen to them.

SRAAYMAKERS
Wanganui

Submission

Asset sales

I disagree with John Tripe's column in support of asset sales.

To sell even the portion proposed by the Government would increase debt rather than lessen it.

Such sales would increase both the overseas and domestic debt. For overseas debt the dividends would be an outgoing far more than the initial investment. Otherwise the overseas investors would not be making the investment. And this would require more overseas borrowing as the outgoings would require overseas exchange which can not be met by export earnings.

The internal debt would increase because the Government would no longer have the income from the portion sold.

If the Government did limit the sale of shares to only New Zealand residents, as Mr Tripe suggest, one wonders how long the Government would maintain this policy. I suspect once the sales were made to New Zealand residents, the Government would then widen the sales to overseas investors.

Eminent New Zealander Bryan Gould writes that already the percentage of overseas ownership of New Zealand assets is the highest of any country in the OECD. For more details on this, go to the website of Campaign Against Foreign Control of Aotearoa, which keeps a monthly list of sales of

local companies and land to overseas buyers.

This group warns against the continuing trend, as decisions on New Zealand economic policies are being made by overseas investors and company boardrooms rather than by Parliament. They will be looking to increase profits rather than keep services reasonably priced. Bryan Gould warns against this trend in his book *Democracy Sham*, which sees the New Zealand Parliament as losing its sovereignty to overseas corporations and investors.

The Government is quite capable of continuing to manage these entities, as they have for decades.

DONNA MUMMERY
Wanganui

Failed delivery

I see the Wanganui District Council grand deity has manifested as a proverbial red-herring. I had hoped that the prayer would have taken a backseat, considering our mayoress' and councillors' continued mumbo-jumbo about debt, the Sarjeant Gallery, earthquake strengthening of historic buildings, just to name the hand-wringing ones. To date, their grand deity or whatever name you put on your God, has failed to deliver. Perhaps the problem is they are confused as to which grand deity to send their wish list to.

Please do us all a favour: remove the prayer from the agenda. You will finish the meeting sooner, thus reducing council's power bill marginally. That, at least, would be a bonus.

I personally applaud Clive Solomon for his principles.

FRANK COTTIS
Castlecliff

Precedent

An English High Court has ruled that the saying of prayers as part of the formal meeting of Bideford Town Council (Devon) is not lawful and that "there

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