

Where is it written that “Maori want to take over the country by 2040”?

The main reference is the ‘He Puapua’ report, which is the blueprint for current Government policy. It was based on a report to the Iwi Leaders Chairs Forum, ‘Matike Mai’. Their “Vision 2040”, which is now referred to in other documents and agreements, proposes three arms of government – Maori, everyone (including Maori) and a joint meeting place to decide issues. This would give Maori effective control.

Much power has already been handed over. The Supreme Court writes its own laws, independent of the elected parliament, by placing the old Maori culture, ‘tikanga’, within the legal process. What that means is for a local iwi to decide. The spit includes the taking of water resources from local government, to be handed over in an unwieldy apartheid co-governance system, giving effective control to Maori – now.

There are a number of parallel actions under way. One aim is for an ‘indigenous’ (Maori) constitution by that date – this has been developed in an international conference at Auckland University last year. I agree with the fear expressed by Muriel Newman, in her last NZCPR Weekly Newsletter, that Labour, and allies, might push through such a divisive constitution right away if they win the election. There is no room for hope from National – a recent response to a question included support for the concept of division and co-governance: “Past local co-governance arrangements that were made in the context of Treaty settlements have worked well.” They would slow the process but not insist on equality in all government.

A transformation of New Zealand is openly supported by Maori Party spokespeople. Their policy is: “We envision an Aotearoa Hou where Tangata Whenua, Tangata Moana and Tangata Tiriti together will realise the true intent of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.” What that means in practice is theirs to define – it relies on the complete destruction and revision of the original treaty of Waitangi, to now mean the very opposite of the original.