

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MĀORI TEXT OF THE TREATY OF WAITANGI AND THE ENGLISH VERSION

This page summarises the key points in each document

	TE TIRITI O WAITANGI	THE ENGLISH VERSION
FIRST	Māori give to the Queen of England the right to have a governor in Aotearoa / New Zealand.	Māori give to the Queen sovereignty over all Aotearoa / New Zealand.
SECOND	The Queen agrees that Māori keep their independence and keep control over their lands and everything that is important to them. They give the Queen the right to buy land, if they want to sell it.	The Queen guarantees all Māori rights to land, forests and fishing. If Māori want to sell land they can only sell it to the Queen.
THIRD	The Queen gives Māori the same rights as British people.	The Queen gives Māori the same rights as British people.
FOURTH (SPOKEN PROMISE)	The Governor promised to protect Māori customs and the different religions in Aotearoa / New Zealand.	

WHICH TREATY?

THE TREATY IN MĀORI	THE ENGLISH VERSION
Signed by 503 Māori leaders, and by the British Governor on behalf of the Queen.	Signed by 39 Māori leaders.
This is the treaty supported by International law. International law gives precedence to the Māori text under a rule called <i>contra proferentem</i> . This means that when a contract is not clear, it should be interpreted against the party who offered the contract.	This is the treaty that Britain wanted. The New Zealand Government has based its authority on this version.
This treaty retains Māori authority in Aotearoa / New Zealand.	This version gives all authority to the Queen.

