

## The Path to a Nominal Democracy

MMP has been a disaster.

Recommended by the Royal Commission on the Electoral System established in 1986 by that Grand Old Know-it-all of New Zealand constitutional law, Geoffrey Palmer, and introduced in 1996 with grand assurances of greater representation for minority interests.

It has simply resulted in the tail wagging the dog.

Almost 20 years on, the race-based Maori Party holds the nation to ransom in a coalition, aided and abetted by John Key, arch opportunist and ex-forex trader.

As this unlikable rabble imposes its will on the people, we approach a state of nominal democracy. The political class, adamant that it knows best, feels confident in introducing unpopular policies by stealth, while deflecting any criticism with the tacit assistance of the mainstream media. The people, clinging to their impotent right to vote, come to accept this outrage as no more than a mildly annoying background hum.

A nominal democracy has no need of oppressive police action to implement policy. Indeed, such action may accelerate matters to a tipping point and is to be avoided at all costs. No, the secret lies in obfuscation, deviously ignoring opposition, submissions accepted and quietly ignored, an unresponsive bureaucracy, ...

The current iteration of the TOW (it's a living document, remember!) imposes on the nation a secretive relationship between the Crown and a greedy part-Maori clique, bypassing the democratic relationship with the people. Introducing policy by stealth is not difficult.

We see this in the unelected Christopher Finlayson, Minister of Treaty Settlements, giving away millions of dollars of taxpayers' money in secret TOW deals based on shonky research and cherry-picked history.

We see this in Auckland's Independent Maori Statutory Board - nine unelected citizens with no particular skills granted voting rights on Auckland City Council committees.

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