

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF NEW ZEALAND
WELLINGTON REGISTRY**

**I TE KŌTI MATUA O AOTEAROA
TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA ROHE**

**CIV-2017-404-481
CIV-2017-485-193
CIV-2017-485-220
CIV-2017-485-221
CIV-2017-485-224
CIV-2017-485-226
CIV-2017-485-232
Group M, Stage 1(b)**

UNDER the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai
Moana) Act 2011

IN THE MATTER OF an application for orders recognising
Customary Marine Title and Protected
Customary Rights

On the Papers

Minute: 19 December 2023

**MINUTE OF GWYN J
(Location for Stage 1(b) hearing)**

[1] In a joint memorandum of counsel filed on 31 July 2023, in relation to the Stage 1(a) hearing, counsel asked the Court to consider whether the Stage 1(b) hearing might be heard closer to the rohe than the Wellington High Court, as a matter of tikanga and to assist applicant witnesses.

[2] Counsel proposed the Napier War Memorial Centre in Napier as a likely location.

[3] In my minute of 2 August 2023, I acknowledged receipt and advised that I would consider the request.

[4] The Court would like to be able to agree to the parties' request. Having the Stage 1(a) hearing in Masterton, close to the applicants' rohe, was of considerable benefit to the Court as well, I hope, to the applicants. However, I am advised by the High Court Registry that the Ministry of Justice team that supports Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act hearings does not have the capacity to simultaneously support more than one hearing away from a High Court location. That team is already committed to providing support for the 10 week Group E Stage 1 (a) hearing in Whangārei Harbour before Harvey J.

[5] Therefore, regrettably, I advise that the Stage 1(b) hearing will be held at the Wellington High Court. Parties, witnesses and counsel will be able to appear and to participate by VMR if required.

Gwyn J