

**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

Minute: 6 May 2024

---

**MINUTE OF GWYN J  
(Scheduling of further steps)**

---

[1] Closing submissions in the Group M, Stage 1(b) hearing were completed on Friday, 3 May 2024.

[2] By minute of 10 April 2024 I directed that Counsel liaise with the High Court Registry to confirm availability for the hearing of wāhi tapu evidence in relation to Stage 1(b) for the week commencing Monday 17 February 2025.

[3] All applicants have now confirmed that they wish to proceed on that date. The Attorney-General has advised, by memorandum of 2 May 2024, that the Attorney-General opposes the scheduling of a hearing in advance of the case management conference (CMC) before Churchman J on 10 May 2024.

[4] The CMC is being held at the request of the Attorney-General. Counsel for the Attorney had previously advised the Court (Churchman J) of delays in payments under the Takutai Moana Financial Assistance Scheme, administered by Te Arawhiti | the Office for Māori Crown Relations. This reflected significant and unanticipated cost pressures on the Scheme, and for that reason counsel for the Attorney-General sought the CMC to discuss all Takutai Moana Act applications that have hearings scheduled in the 2024/25 financial year.

[5] I appreciate the difficult situation that has arisen and the basis for the Attorney's opposition to finalising a fixture during the week of 17 February 2025.

[6] However, as I have discussed with counsel, there is a real risk that if the wāhi tapu hearing is not confirmed for February 2025 it will be very difficult to find Court time to enable all subsequent steps necessary to finalise hearing of the Stage 1(b) application by the end of 2025.

[7] On that basis I have asked the High Court scheduler to confirm that the hearing of wāhi tapu evidence will take place in the week of **17 February 2025**.

[8] I have also asked the Court scheduler to identify dates in 2025 that would be available for the necessary follow-up steps:

- (a) Questioning of the Pūkenga on a supplementary, wāhi tapu report (one day).
- (b) Closing submissions on the wāhi tapu evidence (two days).
- (c) A Stage 2 hearing to finalise any orders (three days).

---

**Gwyn J**