

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

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

**CIV-2017-485-160; CIV-2017-485-214
CIV-2017-485-229; CIV-2017-485-248
CIV-2017-485-261; CIV-2017-485-273
CIV-2017-485-511**

GROUP N, STAGE 1(a)

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

IN THE MATTER OF applications for orders recognising
Customary Marine Title and Protected
Customary rights

Continued...

Hearing On the papers
Counsel: (Listed below)
Minute: 27 February 2026

MINUTE OF GRICE J

[1] I thank counsel for their joint memorandum (and proposed timetable) dated 5 February 2026 for the CMT hearing.¹ As a result of the request by the parties, a four-week hearing is now scheduled from **21 September 2026**.

[2] Counsel also suggested a timetable, which I adopt with a variation in relation to the filing of the pūkenga evidence, as follows:

¹ The joint memorandum is filed on behalf of Ngāti Tamarangi; Muaūpoko; Ngāti Raukawa; Te Whānau Tima; Ngāti Apa; Rangitāne and the Attorney-General. Counsel for the Seafood Industry Representatives; and Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council, Wellington Regional Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council abide the matters addressed in the memorandum. Te Ātiawa is still awaiting instructions but agree with the hearing duration and date.

- (a) Applicants (including applicants appearing here as interested parties), all their evidence to be filed and served on or before **15 June 2026**;
- (b) All the evidence from the Attorney-General, the Seafood Industry Representatives and Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council, Wellington Regional Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council to be filed and served on or before **27 July 2026**.
- (c) The evidence/report of the pūkenga is to be filed and served on or before **7 September 2026**;
- (d) Any replies are to be filed and served on or before **7 September 2026**;
- (e) All parties to give notice of witnesses, including pūkenga, required for cross-examination on or before **14 September 2026**;
- (f) All mini-opening submissions are to be filed and served on or before **14 September 2026**; and
- (g) A four-week hearing commencing **21 September 2026**.

[3] In addition, the Registrar will allocate a case management conference for **May 2026**. This will be primarily to discuss the conduct of the hearing including the pūkenga questions.

[4] Counsel should consider the manner of giving evidence, how the evidence and material from the previous hearing is to be placed before the Court in an orderly manner, and the giving of evidence by experts together (colloquially referred to as “hot tubbing”). Memoranda should be filed and served in relation to those matters and any other matters that require consideration at least 10 days before the allocated case management conference.

[5] In addition, the dates that had been allocated in April 2026 for the CMC are vacated, except retaining two days being **28 and 29 April 2026** for consideration of

any matters arising from the final mapping and determinations of the PCRs, for those involved in those matters.

Grice J

Counsel

T H Bennion and E A Whiley for Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Incorporated (Bennion Law, Wellington)

C F Finlayson KC for Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust (Innes Dean Lawyers, Palmerston North)

L I S Tohill and T P Talamaivao for Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa (Dixon & Co Lawyers, Auckland)

O T H Neas for Ngāti Tamarangi hapū of Muaūpoko iwi (Te Aro Law Ltd, Wellington)

N R Coates for Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga (Kāhui Legal, Wellington)

B R Lyall for Patrick Seymour on behalf of Te Whānau Tima (Seymour) and Te Ahikā o Te Hapū Mateawa (Tu Pono Legal Limited, Rotorua)

A M Cameron and T N Ahu for Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust (Whāia Legal, Wellington)

E K Rongo for Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc (Oranganui Legal Limited, Paraparaumu)

D O Kleinsman for Attorney General (Crown Law, Wellington)

F R Wedde for Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council, Wellington Regional Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council (Buddle Findlay, Wellington)