



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

12 February 2023

## MEDIA STATEMENT

# Jury trials in Auckland, Whangārei adjourned until Wednesday 15 February in response to Cyclone Gabrielle

This morning MetService issued Red weather wind and rain warnings for Auckland and Northland. In light of these warnings, the Chief High Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge have adjourned jury trials in Auckland and Whangārei for Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 February, resuming Wednesday 15 February, the Chief Justice said today.

### High Court

Three criminal jury trials scheduled to begin tomorrow (Monday 13 February) in the Auckland High Court will now begin on Wednesday 15 February.

A jury trial set to begin in Whangārei High Court tomorrow has also been postponed until Wednesday 15 February.

Jurors who were called to attend the Auckland High Court and Whangārei High Court tomorrow are being contacted by the Ministry of Justice and asked to attend on Wednesday 15 February instead.

On Monday 13 February, civil and criminal fixtures of one day or less will, if possible, take place remotely. Civil fixtures of more than one day will not sit. The Registry will contact counsel with further information.

### District Courts

In addition to jury trials being adjourned in District Courts in Northland and Auckland, the local solutions framework is now in force in all District Courts in Auckland, Northland and Thames.

This means that courts have the ability to schedule priority work only, depending on local weather conditions. It is expected courts will reschedule most of their non-priority work if or when their location is upgraded to a Red weather warning. People affected by rescheduling can expect to be contacted by their counsel or Police.

### Further guidance

At this stage, the above courts are the only ones affected. Further guidance will be issued on Courts of NZ and the District Court website if the situation changes.

Please ring 0800 COURTS for more information.

### Media contact:

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