



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

23 July 2021

In November the Supreme Court will leave its Wellington home court for the first time and sit for a week in Auckland, the Chief Justice announced today. The Court also intends to sit in Christchurch next year.

The decision for the Supreme Court to sit on occasion in Auckland and also in Christchurch, reflects the importance of enhancing accessibility to New Zealand’s highest court. The Supreme Court hears cases that originate from all parts of the country, so it is appropriate that it is accessible to the communities affected by its decisions, the Chief Justice said.

“Seeing the court in action, and hearing the arguments as they are made helps foster a deeper understanding of the work of the Court. Sitting for the week in Auckland provides the opportunity for interested members of the public to see how we operate, and the same is true for the Auckland legal community—the profession and law students.”

The Court will sit in the week beginning 15 November in the main courtroom in the Auckland Environment Court, which has been chosen for space considerations. The cases being heard are of particular interest to Aucklanders, and include *Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc v New Zealand Transport Agency* regarding the proposed four-lane East West Link. This case is set down for 16 and 17 November.

The Supreme Court was established in 2004 to recognise New Zealand as an independent nation with its own history and traditions, and to improve access to justice and enable important legal matters, including those relating to the Treaty of Waitangi, to be resolved with an understanding of New Zealand conditions, history and traditions.

*Media contact:*

Liz Kennedy  
Senior Judicial Communications Advisor (Acting)  
027 369 6701

[Liz.Kennedy@justice.govt.nz](mailto:Liz.Kennedy@justice.govt.nz)