



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

11 July 2022

### Supreme Court to sit in Auckland

In August, the Supreme Court will leave its Wellington home court and sit in Auckland, the Chief Justice announced today.

Originally planned for 2021, but rescheduled due to COVID-19, the decision for the Supreme Court to sit in Auckland, reflects the importance of enhancing accessibility to New Zealand's highest court, 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 in Auckland provides the opportunity for interested members of the public, the profession, and law students to see how we operate.”

The Court will sit between 15-17 August 2022 in the main courtroom in the Auckland Environment Court. The case being heard is *Michael John Smith v Fonterra Co-Operative Group Limited*, concerning whether causes of action in public nuisance, negligence or a proposed new tort of breach of duty may be maintained against enterprises whose activities emit substantial volumes of greenhouse gases.

Livestream details will be available on the Courts of New Zealand website ahead of the hearing.

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:*

Alix Chapman  
Senior Judicial Communications Advisor  
0272 860 198

[Alix.Chapman@courts.govt.nz](mailto:Alix.Chapman@courts.govt.nz)