



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

MEDIA STATEMENT

21 February 2023

Supreme Court to sit in Christchurch

The Chief Justice announced today that in the week of 20 March 2023 the Supreme Court will sit in the Christchurch Law Courts.

The Supreme Court began its programme of conducting hearings away from its Wellington home base with a week in Auckland in 2022. This year the court will sit for one week in Christchurch and one week in Auckland.

“Sitting in Christchurch provides the opportunity for interested members of the public, the profession, and law students to see how we operate. We believe this is one step we can take to increase understanding of the role that the courts play in our society, and in particular the role the Supreme Court plays in hearing cases of public importance.”

The Court will sit between 20-23 March 2023 in No 12 courtroom in the High Court in Christchurch. The cases being heard are *Justin Richard Burke v The King* (20 and 21 March 2023), concerning an aspect of party liability for manslaughter under s 66(2) of the Crimes Act 1961; and *Cloud Ocean Water Ltd v Aotearoa Water Action Incorporated and Ors* (22 and 23 March 2023), concerning resource management law in the context of water bottling, specifically the question of whether consent to use water could be granted without an associated application to take water for the same use.

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

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.

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