

Renewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry (Wai 45)

Quarterly Research Update (Number 5), 12 June 2025

Prepared by Waitangi Tribunal Unit staff

Kia ora koutou,

This update provides details of current Waitangi Tribunal commissioned research for the Renewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry.

In memorandum-directions of 29 May 2024 (Wai 45, #2.928) Judge Wainwright asked Waitangi Tribunal Unit staff, the Crown Forestry Rental Trust (CFRT), the Crown, and any claimant groups conducting research to provide quarterly updates on research progress. This request was extended on 3 April 2025 (Wai 45, #2.940).

This is update number 5 from Waitangi Tribunal Unit (WTU) staff.

The Waitangi Tribunal research programme for the Renewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry:

Project	Commissionee(s)	Filing date
Completed		
Social issues report for the Renewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry (Wai 45), 2002-2020 Wai 45, #T15 & #T15(a)	Brittany Whiley Wai 45, #2.883 & #2.885	24 February 2023
Muriwhenua Environmental Issues 1840-2022 Wai 45, #T16, #T16(a), & #T16(b)	Dr Tanja Rother Wai 45, #2.879 & #2.888	18 August 2023
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Two Wai 45, #T24 & #T24(a)	Suzanne Woodley Wai 45, #2.926 & #2.926(a)	16 December 2024
Pre-1865 Crown Transactions and Reserves Wai 45, #T25	Dr Megan Mulder Wai 45, #2.920 & #2.935	17 December 2024
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report One Wai 45, #T28	Heather Bassett Wai 45, #2.925, #2.925(a), & #2.939	29 April 2025

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Project	Commissionee(s)	Filing date
Underway		
Pre-1840 land transactions ('Old Land Claims')	Dr Barry Rigby & Calum Swears Wai 45, #2.922, #2.936, & #2.945	19 September 2025
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Three	Suzanne Woodley Wai 45, #2.947 & #2.947(a)	4 May 2026
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Four	Heather Bassett Wai 45, #2.948 & #2.948(a)	29 May 2026

Research activity for April – June 2025:

Project	Commissionee(s)	Activity
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report One	Heather Bassett Wai 45, #2.925, #2.925(a), & #2.939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report filed on the record of inquiry, 29 April 2025 Wai 45, #T28
Pre-1840 land transactions ('Old Land Claims')	Dr Barry Rigby & Calum Swears Wai 45, #2.922, #2.936, & #2.945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension granted for preparation of the draft and final report. Draft report to be circulated late June 2025.
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Three	Suzanne Woodley Wai 45, #2.947 & #2.947(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project brief circulated to parties, 20 May 2025. Research report commissioned, 11 June 2025.
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Four	Heather Bassett Wai 45, #2.948 & #2.948(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project brief circulated to parties, 20 May 2025. Research report commissioned, 11 June 2025.

Upcoming dates and events for July – September 2025:

Project	Commissionee(s)	Activity
Pre-1840 land transactions ('Old Land Claims')	Dr Barry Rigby & Calum Swears Wai 45, #2.922, & #2.936	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research hui to be held mid-July, following distribution of the draft.Final report due 19 September 2025.
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Three	Suzanne Woodley Wai 45, #2.947 & #2.947(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research hui to be held for research to present and discuss research approach with parties, August 2025.
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Four	Heather Bassett Wai 45, #2.948 & #2.948(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research hui to be held for research to present and discuss research approach with parties, August 2025.

Below are the contact details for the Renewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry (Wai 45) research staff at the Waitangi Tribunal:

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