

**WAITANGI TRIBUNAL**

Wai 3513

**CONCERNING**

the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

**AND**

a claim by John Ruddock on behalf of his whānau and Māori who do not qualify for citizenship by descent

**MEMORANDUM-DIRECTIONS OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

The Registrar will please enter this matter on the register of claims and give it the next available Wai number. The register should note that the claim was received on 24 July 2025.

The claimant has applied to have their claim heard urgently by the Tribunal and this application will be dealt with in separate directions.

The claimant should please take note of the 'Wai' number reference at the top of the page. Please use this claim number in any communication with the Tribunal.

This claim is lodged by John Ruddock on behalf of his whānau and Māori who do not qualify for citizenship by descent generally, and concerns the claimant's tamariki who have not been granted citizenship status despite being Māori. The claimant alleges that the Crown has breached the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi by failing to actively protect:

- Māori citizenship rights;
- citizenship of Aotearoa as a taonga to the Ruddock whānau and Māori generally;
- the ability of Māori to exercise rangatiratanga;
- the connection of all Māori to their land, culture, language and identity; and
- all other rights of Māori that flow from citizenship.

The claimant seeks a variety of relief, including recommendations that the Crown:

- issues an apology; and
- amends the Citizenship Act 1977 to properly reflect the status of Māori as tangata whenua and the Crown's te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.

The claimant may amend this claim at a later stage. In any case the Tribunal may require the claimant to prepare a fully particularised statement of claim before the claim can be heard.

The Tribunal currently runs district and kaupapa inquiry programmes in which claims are grouped either by district or by kaupapa (thematic) issue. Historical claims are those that raise grievances which arose before 21 September 1992. Contemporary claims have grievances that arose on or after that date. Some claims have both historical and contemporary grievances.

If an urgent hearing is not granted for this claim, it would appear to fall within the scope of Wai 3300, Tomokia ngā tatau o Matangireia – the Constitutional Kaupapa Inquiry.

When the time comes for the claim to be prepared for hearing, the Tribunal will decide whether there are any matters in the present claim that the Tribunal may not inquire into. The claimant needs to be aware that there are some matters that the Tribunal is not allowed to inquire into, such as any Bill that has been introduced into Parliament (unless the Bill has been referred to the Tribunal under section 8 of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975). Also, when historical claims are settled, the settlement legislation usually forbids the Tribunal from inquiring further into the matters that have been settled.

The claimant also needs to be aware that the Tribunal does not make settlements. After the Tribunal has completed an inquiry into claims, it writes a report making recommendations to the Crown. It cannot tell the Crown what to do; it may only recommend that the Crown acts to address the negative consequences of its breaches of the principles of the Treaty.

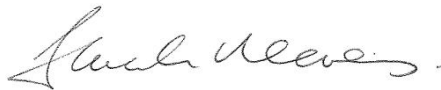
Legal Aid Services provides help for Waitangi Tribunal claimants. For advice on getting a lawyer or receiving funding, please contact Legal Aid Services at their Wellington central office or one of the local offices; the claimant should check their telephone directory for contact details.

Any questions about the contents of this document should be directed to The Registrar, Waitangi Tribunal, DX SX 11237, Wellington; phone (04) 914 3000, fax (04) 914 3001; email [wt.registrar@justice.govt.nz](mailto:wt.registrar@justice.govt.nz).

The Registrar is to send a copy of this direction to the claimant and to:

- Crown Law Office;
- Te Tari Whakatau, Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana;
- Crown Forestry Rental Trust;
- Legal Aid Services;
- Te Puni Kōkiri;
- Department of Internal Affairs;
- Immigration New Zealand; and
- all those on the notification list for Wai 3300, Tomokia ngā tatau o Matangireia - the Constitutional Kaupapa Inquiry.

**DATED** at Wellington this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025



Judge Sarah Reeves  
Deputy Chairperson

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