Te Tari Ture o te Karauna
Crown Law

"A"

6 August 2025

Manaia Legal
406 Massey Street
Hastings

Attention: Alice McCarthy and Winston McCarthy

By email: alice@manaialegal.com; winston@manaialegal.com

Tēnā kōrua

Wai 3513 - the Citizenship (Ruddock) Urgent claim
Our Ref: INT008/1370

1. We are in receipt of the statement of claim on behalf of your client Mr John Ruddock (Wai 3513) and the corresponding application for urgent hearing.

Urgency

2. The Crown does not consider the high grounds for grant of an urgent inquiry under the Waitangi Tribunal's Guide to Practice and Procedure have been met in Mr Ruddock's case and would oppose on that basis.

3. That is not to say the Crown would oppose the Waitangi Tribunal inquiring into citizenship issues, including the policy settings that underpin the Citizenship Act, as part of the Tribunal's kaupapa inquiry programme. However, the Crown's strong preference would be for the Tribunal not to undertake a discrete inquiry into the particular issues that your client raises, as would be required for an urgent inquiry. The Crown does not consider it would be helpful if the Tribunal inquired into those issues in isolation.

Assistance the Department could provide

4. We consider there is an opportunity to resolve the concerns underlying Mr Ruddock's claim outside of the Tribunal's processes.

5. Our client, the Department of Internal Affairs, has received the application Mr Ruddock made for citizenship for his children on 30 July 2025, and the direct submission to the Minister made on Mr Ruddock's behalf on 5 July 2025. The Department would like to discuss these applications with Mr Ruddock. While the Department cannot guarantee the outcome of the Minister's decision, there may be additional assistance the Department can provide in allocating and prioritising Mr Ruddock's applications.

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6. If Mr Ruddock would like to take up this assistance, he may contact [redacted]. [redacted]'s email address is [redacted]@dia.govt.nz.

7. If this proposal is amenable, we suggest filing a joint memorandum with the Tribunal to indicate that discussions have commenced between Mr Ruddock and the Department and urgency is not required at this time. This would not prevent any later application for urgency by Mr Ruddock.

8. We understand you will need to take instructions. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter, please contact me by phone ([redacted]) or email (rahera.douglas@crownlaw.govt.nz).

I roto i ngā mihi
Crown Law

Rahera Douglas
Crown Counsel