

**IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL**

Wai 45

**CONCERNING**

the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

**AND**

the Renewed Muriwhenua Land  
Inquiry

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**MEMORANDUM-DIRECTIONS OF JUDGE C M WAINWRIGHT**  
**CONCERNING ACCESS TO MATERIAL HELD AT ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND**

4 December 2025

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## Introduction

1. This memorandum-directions requests expedited access to source material held at Archives New Zealand in Wellington to support the completion of research for this inquiry (Wai 45).

## Access to Archives collections and the proposed inquiry timetable

2. On 18 September 2025, I released the commissioned research report of Dr Barry Rigby and Calum Swears 'Muriwhenua Old Land Claims' (Wai 45, #2.968).
3. As part of the commission process, researchers must submit copies of key supporting documents they use for their research in the form of a document bank filed on the record of inquiry to accompany the research report (*Guide to the Practice and Procedure of the Waitangi Tribunal*, August 2023, p.27 - 28).
4. Dr Rigby and Mr Swears cannot complete the document bank for their report because they cannot access material that Archives New Zealand holds in Wellington, but currently not available at their new premises. The transition of material to the new site is ongoing and evidently will continue until the end of 2026. If Dr Rigby and Mr Swears cannot access the material they need before end 2026, it will disrupt the timetable for this inquiry, which requires all research to be filed by September 2026 (Wai 45, #2.971 at [45]).
5. I ask Archives New Zealand to do everything possible to support the access to documents of researchers undertaking research in this inquiry. In particular, please facilitate access now to the source material that Dr Rigby and Mr Swears require to complete their document bank.

The Registrar is to send this direction to all those on the distribution list for the Renewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry, Wai 45.

**DATED** at Wellington this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025



Judge C M Wainwright  
Presiding Officer

**WAITANGI TRIBUNAL**