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Waitangi Tribunal

**11 Dec 25**Ministry of Justice  
WELLINGTON**OFFICIAL****Wai 45, #2.974***Renewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry (Wai 45)**Quarterly Research Update from WTU staff, 12 December 2025***Renewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry (Wai 45)****Quarterly Research Update (Number 7), 12 December 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 7 from Waitangi Tribunal Unit (WTU) staff.

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

<b>Project</b>	<b>Commissionee(s)</b>	<b>Filing date</b>
<b>Completed</b>		
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 & #T25(a)-(k)	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
Pre-1840 land transactions ('Old Land Claims') Wai 45, #T31	Dr Barry Rigby & Calum Swears Wai 45, #2.922, #2.936, & #2.945	12 September 2025

<b>Project</b>	<b>Commissionee(s)</b>	<b>Filing date</b>
<b>Underway</b>		
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 September – November 2025:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Commissionee(s)</b>	<b>Activity</b>
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"> <li>• Final report filed 12 September 2025.</li> <li>• Wai 45, #T31</li> </ul>

Upcoming dates and events for December – March 2025:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Commissionee(s)</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Three	Suzanne Woodley Wai 45, #2.947 & #2.947(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft report due 16 February 2026.</li> <li>• Research hui to discuss draft report to be held following draft distribution.</li> </ul>
Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Four	Heather Bassett Wai 45, #2.948 & #2.948(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft report due 13 March 2026.</li> <li>• Research hui to discuss draft report to be held following draft distribution.</li> </ul>

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

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