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Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTONRenewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry (Wai 45)
Quarterly Research Update from WTU staff, 16 March 2026

Renewed Muriwhenua Land Inquiry (Wai 45)

Quarterly Research Update (Number 8), 16 March 2026

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 8 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 & #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 |

| Project | Commissionee(s) | Filing date |
|--|---|-------------|
| Underway | | |
| 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 December 2025 – February 2026:

| Project | Commissionee(s) | Activity |
|--|---|---|
| Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Three | Suzanne Woodley Wai 45, #2.947 & #2.947(a) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft report delayed. Originally due 16 February 2026, now expected on 13 April 2026. |

Upcoming dates and events for March – June 2026:

| Project | Commissionee(s) | Activity |
|--|---|--|
| Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Three | Suzanne Woodley Wai 45, #2.947 & #2.947(a) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft report due 13 April 2026. Research hui to discuss draft report to be held following draft distribution. |
| Muriwhenua Post-1865 Block Narratives – Report Four | Heather Bassett Wai 45, #2.948 & #2.948(a) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft report delayed. Originally due 13 March 2026, now expected on 13 July 2026. Research hui to discuss draft report to be held following draft distribution. |

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

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