
KEI MUA I TE AROARO O TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA
I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

BEFORE THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL

WAI 2358

IN THE MATTER OF

the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

the National Fresh Water and Geothermal
Resources Inquiry

**CROWN MEMORANDUM REGARDING RETROSPECTIVE CLAIMANT FUNDING
NOTICE OF EXTENSION**

13 Huitānguru | February 2026



**Te Tari Ture
o te Karauna**
Crown Law

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RECEIVED

Waitangi Tribunal

13 Feb 26

Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

MAY IT PLEASE THE TRIBUNAL:

1. In this memorandum, the Crown provides notice of an extension to the cut-off date for retrospective claimant funding applications for stage one and stage two of the National Freshwater and Geothermal Resources inquiry (Wai 2358). The cut-off date for applications has been extended to **31 March 2026**.
2. On 23 June 2025 counsel for the Crown filed a memorandum noting that the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) confirmed in Whakatika ki Runga (Wai 3060) that as well as making claimant funding available for stage three of Wai 2358, MfE could make retrospective claimant funding available for claimants who participated in previous stages of Wai 2358.¹
3. In the June 2025 memorandum, counsel for the Crown provided MfE's retrospective claimant funding policy and application forms. The policy and forms can be found on the MfE website and are provided again here:
 - (a) Policy: [Retrospective claimant funding policy: Waitangi Tribunal National Fresh Water and Geothermal Resources Inquiry \(Wai 2358\) Stages 1 and 2 | Ministry for the Environment](#)
 - (b) Form: [Waitangi Tribunal National Fresh Water and Geothermal Resources Inquiry \(Wai 2358\) Stages 1 and 2 Retrospective claimant funding application form | Ministry for the Environment](#)
4. The previous memorandum noted that applications for retrospective claimant funding must be received by 31 December 2025. This deadline has been extended to **31 March 2026**. There will be no further extensions.

¹ Wai 3060, #A65(a) at [13]-[15].

5. MfE encourages any claimants, claimant witnesses, interested parties and support people who travelled to participate in stage one or two (2012-2018) to apply for this funding.
6. The retrospective claimant funding policy outlines the types of funding available; specifically travel costs, accommodation and kai.
7. The retrospective claimant funding policy notes that due to the time elapsed since stages one and two, it may not be possible for applicants to produce records of expenses as proof of costs. In these circumstances, the application form contains high-level questions about participation in hearings. Applicants are to sign the form to attest that their responses to the questions are made to the best of their recollection.
8. If claimants require further information or wish to speak with someone regarding funding queries or needs, they can request information or contact a MfE official via this email: claimantfunding@mfe.govt.nz

13 Huitānguru | February 2026



T Stephens KC / G Seeley / C Strowger-Turnock
Counsel for the Crown

TO: The Registrar, Waitangi Tribunal
AND TO: Claimant Counsel