OFFICIAL

IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL
KEI MUA I TE TARAIPIUNARA

WAI 3325

UNDER **The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975**

CONCERNING **The Climate Change Priority Inquiry**

JOINT MEMORANDUM OF CLAIMANT COORDINATING COUNSEL AND THE CROWN CONCERNING CLOSING SUBMISSIONS

Dated: 21 May 2026

RECEIVED
Waitangi Tribunal
21 May 26
Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

TĒNĀ, E TE TARAIPIUNARA

1. This memorandum is filed by claimant coordinating counsel and Crown counsel.

2. In directions dated 8 May 2026, the Presiding Officer directed claimant counsel to file summary closing submissions by 5pm Tuesday 26 May 2026, Crown counsel by 5pm Tuesday 2 June 2026, for presentation at a hybrid hearing in June 2026.

3. The parties are conscious of previous directions concerning the need to prioritise and complete this inquiry. However, June 2026 is not workable.

4. Transcripts are required before closings can be properly prepared, and the parties and their counsel face significant competing demands from concurrent urgent inquiries and fixtures.

5. We jointly ask that the June hearing dates are vacated, and hearing nine is rescheduled to allow adequate time for full closings to be prepared and exchanged. On timing for a closing hearing:

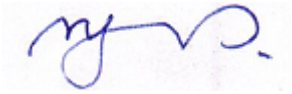
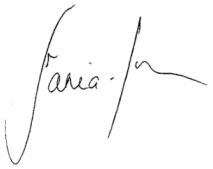
    a. The claimants will abide Tribunal availability for a new date.

    b. If possible, Crown counsel prefer during or after September 2026 (to accommodate a competing commitment in the Supreme Court).

6. We also ask that the deadlines for submission of closing submissions are vacated, with revised deadlines to be set once a new date is confirmed.

7. Counsel will provide a further update at the hearing scheduled for next week and are available to attend a judicial conference if that assists the Tribunal.

Dated: 21 May 2025

Bryce Lyall Michael Sharp Tania Te Whenua
Claimant Coordinating Counsel

J Prebble N Fong G Seeley C Downey
Crown Counsel