OFFICIAL

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**

MEMORANDUM OF COUNSEL FOR THE CROWN

15 Mahuru | September 2026

Te Tari Ture o te Karauna
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Waitangi Tribunal
16 Sep 26
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WELLINGTON

MAY IT PLEASE THE TRIBUNAL:

1. In this memorandum, the Crown provides an update on claimant funding and on the revised timetable for hearing week four.

Claimant funding

2. The Crown reminds claimants and interested parties of the availability of funding for hearing four, Stage Three of the National Freshwater and Geothermal Resources Inquiry (Wai 2358). Hearing four will take place from 29 September – 1 October 2026.

3. The claimant funding policy for Stage Three of Wai 2358 is available on the Ministry for the Environment website here. Claimants and interested parties who wish to request funding may do so using the reimbursement forms available on the Ministry for the Environment website here. Claimants and interested parties can find the form to request funding for travel and accommodation to attend hearing four here.

4. While the Ministry for the Environment has been officially disestablished and subsumed into the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (the Ministry), the ability of claimants and interested parties to access claimant funding remains in place. The Ministry for the Environment's guidance on this process also remains in place, as provided in the claimant funding policy linked at para [2].

5. Claimants or interested parties who wish to request funding are encouraged to do so in advance of hearing four, but the Ministry is able to provide reimbursements if necessary.

6. The Ministry will not be providing in person claimant funding support during hearing four. If claimants or interested parties require further information or funding support while at the hearing, they can email the Ministry at claimantfunding@mcert.govt.nz.

Hearing week four timetable

7. Counsel for the Crown are continuing to liaise with claimant counsel regarding the hearing week four timetable. The Crown will file a revised timetable later this week.

15 Mahuru | September 2026

T Stephens KC / G Seeley
Counsel for the Crown

TO: The Registrar, Waitangi Tribunal

AND TO: Claimant Counsel