



CHIEF JUDGE OF THE MĀORI LAND COURT
TE KAIWHAKAWĀ MATUA O TE KOOTI WHENUA MĀORI

Māori Land Court Timely Access to Justice Performance Measures

1. The Māori Land Court plays an important role in helping whānau, hapū and Māori landowners access and make decisions about their whenua. Timely access to justice is an important part of the Court's work and helps ensure people can resolve matters affecting their land without unnecessary delay.
2. Improving timely access to justice is an important part of ensuring Te Kooti Whenua Māori remains effective, accessible and responsive to the needs of those it serves. These measures represent another step in the Court's ongoing commitment to supporting Māori landowners, whānau and hapū through the fair, careful and timely resolution of applications.
3. Over recent years, demand for Māori Land Court services has continued to increase. At the same time, the Court has been focused on improving the timeliness of its services. This work has improved performance and provided insights into where further improvements can be made.
4. Building on this foundation, I have approved new timely access to justice measures for Te Kooti Whenua Māori. The measures introduce application categories and maximum timeframes that reflect the different types of work undertaken by the Court.
5. The Court deals with a different range of applications. Some applications are relatively straightforward and can be resolved quickly, while others involve complex legal, historical, governance or whānau matters that require more extensive consideration. The approved timeframes recognise these differences and provides a way of measuring timeliness across the Court's work.
6. The approved measures are:

Application category	Maximum timeframe
Simple and uncontested applications	6 months
Section 86 and 87 applications (applications to amend the court record)	
Succession applications	12 months
Governance applications	12 months
Title change applications	24 months
Other applications (including Chief Judge and Māori Appellate Court)	24 months

7. The measures are intended to improve transparency, help identify where delays occur and support ongoing efforts to improve services for landowners and court users. They are not intended to diminish the quality of judicial decision-making, alter legislative requirements, or affect the care and consideration that each application receives. Nor do they replace statutory requirements relating to notification, evidence, hearings, or judicial determination. Te Kooti Whenua Māori must continue to operate in accordance with Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 and the Māori Land Court Rules 2011, which provide the framework for how applications are processed and progressed through the Court.
8. Not every application will be resolved within its timeframe. Some matters involve statutory requirements, complex legal or factual issues, disputes between parties, the need for additional information, or circumstances outside the Court's control. For this reason, the Court's long-term goal is to resolve 80 percent of applications within their applicable timeframe by June 2030. This

target is based on forecasting that indicates the Court can progressively improve performance and achieve this level of timeliness by that date.

9. Achieving this goal will require sustained effort across the Court. The measures will be supported by ongoing monitoring, continuous improvement activities, and collaboration across the judiciary and Court administration. They will also help the Court better understand where further changes are needed to improve the experience of Māori landowners and court users.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Fox'.

Dr Caren Fox
Chief Judge, Māori Land Court
5 October 2026