

## Legal alert - Te Ture Whenua Māori Act review report released

[Paul Beverley](#), [Jennifer Caldwell](#), [David Allen](#), [David Randal](#), [Cedric Carranceja](#)

3 April 2014

The Government is progressing its reform of the legislative framework governing Māori land. Today the Associate Minister for Māori Affairs, Hon Christopher Finlayson QC, released the final report of an expert review panel tasked with reviewing the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

The report (available [here](#)) outlines the panel's recommendations for reforming the Act, including:

- Allowing engaged owners to make governance and utilisation decisions without needing approval by the Māori Land Court
- Continued safeguards to support the retention of Māori land
- Provisions allowing for external managers to administer under-utilised blocks pending owner engagement
- A clearer framework for Māori land governance entities such as trusts and incorporations
- Greater emphasis on mediation
- The Māori Land Court remaining an accessible forum for Māori land issues but with fewer matters needing Court involvement
- Options for dealing with fragmentation.

### Auckland

188 Quay Street  
Auckland 1010

PO Box 1433  
Auckland 1140  
New Zealand

P: +64 9 358 2555  
F: +64 9 358 2055

### Wellington

Aon Centre  
1 Willis Street  
Wellington 6011

PO Box 2694  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

P: +64 4 499 4242  
F: +64 4 499 4141

### Christchurch

83 Victoria Street  
Christchurch 8013

PO Box 322  
Christchurch 8140  
New Zealand

P: +64 3 379 1747  
F: +64 3 379 5659