

## CHAIR



### **Horiana Irwin-Easthope, Whāia Legal, Wellington**

Ngāti Porou (Te Whānau a Putaanga), Rakaipaaka, Ngāti Kahungunu. Prior to founding Whāia Legal in 2018, Horiana worked at Russell McVeagh in their resource management, Māori legal and commercial litigation teams, and at Kāhui Legal. She also spent time studying in the United States and has an LLM from Harvard Law School (2014). Horiana's practice focuses on public and environmental law and she appears in all levels of the New Zealand courts.

## SPEAKERS



### **His Honour Judge David Kirkpatrick, Chief Environment Court Judge, Auckland**

Judge Kirkpatrick was sworn in on 3 February 2014 and appointed Chief Judge of the Environment Court on 8 July 2020. Prior to his judicial appointment, he was a resource management lawyer with extensive experience in consenting and planning appeals.



### **David Bullock, LeeSalmonLong, Auckland**

David is a partner at LeeSalmonLong and a doctoral candidate at the University of Toronto. He has appeared at all levels of New Zealand's courts, including in cases concerning climate change and human rights. David regularly publishes on topics including climate change, human rights and tort law.



### **Mike Doesburg, Wynn Williams, Auckland**

Mike is an environment law specialist, and partner in the environmental and planning team at Wynn Williams. He acts for both councils and private clients on complex planning and consenting issues, which see him appear regularly before independent hearings panels, the Environment Court and the High Court.



### **The Honourable Justice Melanie Harland, High Court, Christchurch**

In 2007 Justice Harland was appointed a District Court Judge sitting in Hamilton with jury and general warrants. In 2008 she was appointed an alternate Environment Court Judge to assist with Resource Management Act prosecutions in the District Court. Justice Harland was appointed a full time Environment Court Judge in Auckland in 2009 and then sworn in as a Judge of the High Court in 2021. Prior to her judicial appointment she was a partner at McCaw Lewis in Hamilton, gaining civil litigation experience in resource management and administrative law, criminal defence work and family law.

## SPEAKERS



### **Her Honour Judge Sheena Tepania, Environment Court, Wellington**

Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa, Ngāpuhi.

Judge Tepania was appointed as an Environment Court Judge and District Court Judge in March 2023. Prior to her appointment Judge Tepania was an experienced hearings commissioner and lawyer focused on resource management, te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori land law.



### **Her Honour Judge Alana Thomas, Māori Land Court, Aotea District, Auckland**

Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Rēhia, Ngāti Kuri.

Judge Thomas was appointed as a permanent judge of the Māori Land Court in March 2023. Prior to this she represented clients in the Māori Land Court and the Māori Appellate Court as well as iwi, hapū, whānau and claimants in the Waitangi Tribunal. Alana is fluent in te reo Māori and is a strong advocate for the use and promotion of te reo Māori within the law.



### **Davey Salmon KC, Mills Lane Chambers, Auckland**

Davey is a barrister at Mills Lane Chambers in Auckland. He has acted in a number of cases related to environmental issues including climate change, and currently acts for Mike Smith in his proceedings against corporate emitters and his proceedings against the Crown.



### **The Honourable Justice Christian Whata, High Court, Auckland**

Ngāti Pīkiao, Ngāti Tamateatūtahi – Kawiti of Te Arawa.

Justice Whata was appointed a High Court judge in 2011. He has adjudicated on a wide range of subject matters, including major common law, commercial, public, environmental, Māori and criminal matters. Justice Whata is also a member of the faculty of Te Kura Kaiwhakawā | Institute of Judicial Studies, responsible for the Tikanga Programme. While in practice, he specialised in Māori legal issues and public and environmental law.



### **Maia Wikaira, Whāia Legal, Wellington**

Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi.

Maia is a tumuaki (director) at Whāia Legal. She has extensive experience in resource management and environmental law, public law, Treaty of Waitangi law, and the interface of tikanga and the law. Maia's practice covers both legislative advisory work and litigation. She is a fluent speaker of te reo Māori and brings a te ao Māori lens to her work.

# CONTENTS

<b>RMA REFORM – A JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>RMA REFORM – A MĀORI PRACTITIONERS’ PERSPECTIVE – FOCUS ON TE ORANGA O TE TAIAO .....</b>	<b>3</b>
THE NBE ACT: A NEW FOCUS.....	5
OLD IS NEW AGAIN.....	5
ENSURING INTEGRITY OF THE CONCEPT .....	6
OPERATIONALISING TE ORANGA O TE TAIAO .....	8
THE CASE TO RETAIN TE ORANGA O TE TAIAO.....	9
<b>CASE LAW UPDATE .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION IN THE HIGHER COURTS – A JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVE .</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>KO TE REO KIA RERE, HEI REO MANA: TIKANGA AND TE REO MĀORI – LESSONS FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS.....</b>	<b>31</b>
HE MIHI.....	33
KUPU WHAKATAKI.....	34
NGĀ TAU O TE POROTĒHI.....	35
I ĒNEI WĀ NEI.....	36
ME WHAKATŪ TĀTOU I TŌ TĀTOU WHARE TURE .....	38
<b>KO TE REO KIA RERE, HEI REO MANA: TIKANGA AND TE REO MĀORI – LESSONS FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS.....</b>	<b>41</b>
INTRODUCTION .....	43
THE DECLINE OF THE MĀORI LANGUAGE .....	44
THE PROTEST YEARS .....	44
THE CURRENT YEARS .....	45
<b>TIKANGA – LAW COMMISSION WORK AND LESSONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JURISDICTION .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>THOUGHTS ON COMMON LAW IN THE AGE OF ECOLOGICAL COLLAPSE .....</b>	<b>51</b>
INTRODUCTION .....	53
TORT LAW AND ENVIRONMENTAL CASES .....	54
NEW TORTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT .....	60
TRENDS IN OTHER CASES CONCERNING THE CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT .....	61