

## **Changes introduced by Te Ture Whenua Māori (Succession, Dispute Resolution, and Related Matters) Amendment Act 2020**

### **Frequently asked questions – Related matters (Māori Land Court function)**

#### **1. Will the role of the Māori Land Court change?**

No. The Māori Land Court will continue to provide a court service for owners of Māori land, their whānau and their hapū that upholds the retention of Māori land, and assists with the occupation, development and use of that land.

However, some of the processes and services they provide will change from early 2021 as a result of these legislative changes.

#### **2. Why are the remedies of the Māori Land Court being expanded?**

The remedies available to the Māori Land Court to enforce a decision are not as comprehensive as in other courts. This causes unfairness and limits the ability of whānau to protect their land. The changes in the Act will ensure that the remedies are practical, effective and aligned more closely with the jurisdictions of other courts.

#### **3. Why is the jurisdiction of the Māori Land Court being extended?**

The Māori Land Court will have new jurisdiction under the Family Protection Act 1955, Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949, Government Roothing Powers Act 1989, Local Government Act 1974 and the Property Law Act 2007.

The Māori Land Court is better placed to assess the cultural implications of how interests in Māori land should be dealt with. In this way the expertise of Māori Land Court Judges, who have a close understanding of the dynamics of whānau and the Māori community, will be better utilised. Costs to whānau will also be reduced because they will not need to attend multiple courts on a matter.