

Pānui Takutai Moana

September 2026

More funding for longer High Court hearings

What these funding changes mean

If your applicant group is involved in a longer substantive or supplementary High Court hearing, you may now be eligible for additional Court Workstream funding. Changes have been made to the interim Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) settings for the 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years to provide this extra support.

Ministers have approved changes to the interim FAS settings to better support applicant groups participating in extended hearings.

The additional funding available is:

- Substantive High Court hearings: an additional \$22,000 per week for each hearing week beyond week four.
- Supplementary hearings (including Wāhi Tapu, Final Orders and Appeal hearings): an additional \$5,000 per day for each hearing day beyond day three.

Examples of how the new funding applies

Hearing	Length	Current funding	Additional funding	Total funding
Mokau ki Runga	2 weeks	\$140,000	\$0	\$140,000
Te Whakatōhea Remittal	3 weeks	\$140,000	\$0	\$140,000
Ngāti Tara Hearing	8 weeks	\$140,000	\$88,000 (4 weeks at \$22,000)	\$228,000
Pāhauwera Appeals	10 days	\$30,000	\$35,000 (7 days at \$5,000)	\$65,000
Central Bay of Plenty*	8 weeks	\$140,000	\$88,000 (4 weeks at \$22,000)	\$228,000
Whangaroa* (Te Whānau-a-Raroroa)	12 weeks	\$140,000	\$176,000 (8 weeks at \$22,000)	\$316,000

* These hearings are expected to take place during the 2027/28 financial year. Court Workstream funding may be accessed during the preceding financial year to support hearing preparation.

To help applicant groups prepare for these extended hearings, the Funding Team is preparing draft Budgeted Workplans and expects to contact applicant groups and counsel by the end of September 2026. Applicants can also use the Budgeted Workplan template available on our website to prepare their own workplans.

Funding requirements and deadlines

Important things to remember

- A Budgeted Workplan must have written endorsement from the applicant group before assessment can begin.
- An agreed Budgeted Workplan must be in place before costs can be incurred.
- Costs incurred outside an agreed Budgeted Workplan will not be reimbursed.
- Reimbursement requests must be submitted within the required timeframe.

Funding available before your hearing begins

Applicant groups participating in a hearing may access Court Workstream funding during the financial year before the hearing is scheduled to begin.

For example, applicant groups participating in the Central Bay of Plenty and Whangaroa hearings may access Court Workstream funding from now to support preparation activities.

How long assessments take

We aim to assess complete Budgeted Workplans and reimbursement requests within 20 working days. If we need more information, we will contact you. Your request will be placed on hold until we receive the necessary information. The 20 working-day timeframe will restart once the information is received.

Reimbursement request deadlines

You need to submit reimbursement requests for costs incurred under an agreed Budgeted Workplan to Te Tari Whakatau by the end of the financial year following the financial year in which costs were incurred.

For example, costs incurred during the 2026/27 financial year must be submitted by 30 June 2028. Requests submitted after this deadline may not be funded.

Funding priorities for 2026/27

To manage the FAS within the annual appropriation, from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 we will prioritise funding for:

- Crown engagement applicant groups that are close to seeking a Ministerial determination in the 2026/27 financial year (that is, research completed; overlapping claims resolved; and public consultation completed).
- Applicant groups participating in a High Court hearing scheduled, or expected to be scheduled in the 2026/27 or 2027/28 financial years.
- Time-sensitive mahi.

Applicant Information Stocktake

Thank you for updating your information

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our Applicant Information Stocktake. Your input helps us maintain accurate contact information and improve how we stay in touch with applicant groups.

So far, 65 per cent of the applicant groups we've contacted have provided updated information. We appreciate the time taken to review your details and let us know about any changes.

Keeping your contact information up to date helps us share important information with you about your application and future engagement opportunities.