



**CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE FOR NEW ZEALAND
TE KAIWHAKAWĀ MATUA O TE KŌTI-Ā-ROHE O AOTEAROA
Judge Heemi Taumaunu**

**20 February 2023
MEDIA STATEMENT**

Update on courts in Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti

The Chief District Court Judge Heemi Taumaunu has made a series of decisions about court operations in the Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay regions. These decisions are being reviewed daily and reflect the fluid nature of the situation and the capacity of the courts to operate in challenging circumstances.

In Tairāwhiti, the Gisborne District Court building is still unable to be occupied as of Monday but court hearings dealing with priority proceedings will resume this afternoon in an outdoor courtyard adjacent to the court building. These proceedings will be open to the public and media representatives.

In Hawke's Bay, Hastings District Court has reopened to the public and priority cases are being heard. The public and media representatives are able to attend.

Napier District Court remains closed and priority matters from Napier will be heard in Hastings. The Wairoa District Court remains closed until Saturday 25 February (inclusive).

All jury trials in the Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti regions have been vacated for the week of 20 February and anyone summoned for jury service is not required to attend.

ENDS

Media contact: Principal Judicial Communications Advisor Steve Corbett – 027 666 8949