

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT
AT MANUKAU**

**I TE KŌTI-Ā-ROHE
KI MANUKAU**

CIV 2025-092-004041

UNDER	The Local Electoral Act 2001
IN THE MATTER	of an application for an enquiry into the conduct of candidates at the election of local board members in the Papatoetoe subdivision of Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board
BETWEEN	LEHOPOAME VI HAUSIA Applicant
AND	DALE OFSOSKE of Auckland, Returning Officer Respondent

Appearances: SR Mitchell KC for Applicant

Date: 12 November 2025
(On the papers)

MINUTE OF JUDGE K D KELLY

[1] On 7 November 2025, pursuant to s 93 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act), Lehopoame Vi Hausia (the Petitioner) filed a petition for inquiry into the conduct of the election of local board members in the Papatoetoe subdivision of the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board in the 2025 local body elections.

[2] The Petitioner was a candidate for the election in the Papatoetoe subdivision of the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board.

[3] The specified grounds for the petition are:

- (a) Statistics and turnout anomalies inconstant with historic and current voting patterns in Papatoetoe;
- (b) The non-delivery, misuse, or unauthorised possession of ballot papers;
- (c) Irregularities in the handling and verification of special and duplicate votes, and an unprecedented surge in special voting;
- (d) Discrepancies and inaccuracies in the list of persons from whom voting documents were received;
- (e) Unlawful campaign activities and interferences with the voting process;
- (f) Systematic weaknesses in the administration of the postal-voting system compromising election integrity; and

on the further grounds within the affidavit of Lehopoame Vi Hausia dated 7 November 2025.

[4] Pursuant to s 96 of the Act, the inquiry must be commenced within 14 days after the filing of the petition, and not less than 7 days' public notice must be given of the time and place at which the inquiry will be held.

[5] No grounds other than those stated in the petition may be investigated, except with the leave of the District Court Judge hearing the petition (s 94).

[6] Pursuant to s 95(1)(a) and (c) of the Act, a notice of an intention to oppose a petition may be filed by:

- (a) any candidate or any 10 electors, given the petition concerns an election; or

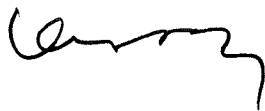
- (b) the electoral officer or other electoral official, to the extent that the petition complains of the conduct of the electoral officer or other electoral official.

[7] As set out in s 95(2), the person or persons who files a notice to oppose are the respondent or respondents to the petition.

Directions

[8] I direct that:

- (a) the inquiry be commenced in the Manuka District Court, on **21 November 2025 at 2.15pm** before the District Court Judge appointed for the inquiry;
- (b) any notice of an intention to oppose the petition is to be filed in the Manukau District Court; and
- (c) the Registrar is to publicly notify the time and place at which the inquiry is to be held; and
- (d) the Registrar is to provide each candidate for the Papatoetoe subdivision of the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board with a copy of this minute.



K D Kelly
District Court Judge