

Takutai Moana Pānui

30 January 2026

Financial Assistance Scheme settings for hearings, re-hearings and Crown engagement pathway following the Amendment Act

This pānui outlines recent ministerial decisions on the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) following the enactment in October last year of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) (Customary Marine Title) Amendment Act 2025 (the Amendment Act).

Earlier access to Court workstream funding

Ministers have approved two changes to the interim FAS settings to better support applicants:

- Applicant groups with hearings scheduled between 1 July and 31 December 2026 will be able to access approved funding for necessary hearing costs between now and 30 June 2026.
- Applicant groups who are preparing for hearings, but whose hearings are still to be scheduled may have access to hearing-related funding between now and 30 June 2026.

This follows recent ministerial approval for the extension of interim FAS settings, which will continue until 30 June 2027. Please read our [26 November 2025 pānui](#) for more information.

This change has been made to avoid unnecessary delays where work needs to begin before 1 July 2026.

This funding will come from the applicant's funding allocation for that hearing.

Access to re-hearing funding following the Amendment Act

Further to our 26 November 2025 pānui, the Government has confirmed FAS settings for the applicants directly affected by the Amendment Act.

Re-hearing funding now available

Funding is now available to contribute to the re-hearing costs of the Court applications required to be re-heard under the Amendment Act. The Government has allocated additional funding of up to \$15 million to support this work. The High Court will determine the timing of any re-hearings.

Each applicant group may be eligible for up to \$255,000 funding to support their preparation for, and participation in, the re-hearings, made up as follows:

- Up to \$15,000 for costs to support the rescheduling of the re-hearings and

attending any required case management conferences.

To support applicant groups seeking approval of costs to support the rescheduling of the re-hearings, we've published budgeted workplan templates on our website for Court submissions and case management conferences related to re-hearings.

[Rescheduling costs budgeted workplan Oct 2025 to June 2027](#)

- Once a re-hearing is scheduled, each affected applicant group may access:
 - up to \$100,000 for Activity workstream costs (eg research, evidence, and project management); and
 - up to \$140,000 for Court workstream costs.

These allocations will be subject to the applicable FAS settings at any given time (eg funding availability, hearing timing, Budgeted Workplans).

These amounts are in addition to each group's existing FAS allocations.

To assist with the drafting of Budgeted Workplans, Te Tari Whakatau will have draft budgets for Activity and Court workstream costs available on our website as re-hearings become scheduled.

If you have any questions or need to discuss funding, please contact Te Tari Whakatau at fundingtakutai@whakatau.govt.nz or on 0800 866 222 in the first instance.

Additional funding for Crown engagement applicants

Priority Crown engagement applicant groups are eligible to access additional funding.

Each group may receive up to \$60,000 to review, update or resubmit evidence in line with the new legal test introduced by the Amendment Act.

Te Tari Whakatau will contact affected Crown engagement applicant groups directly to explain the next steps.

Approval of budgeted work plans for 2026/27

All applicant groups will be able to submit budgeted work plans for consideration for the 2026/27 financial year from 1 April 2026.

We will accept budgeted workplans before 1 April 2026 for applicants with hearings scheduled to commence before 31 December 2026. We will be in touch with these applicants directly to advise.

Updated guidance and templates will be available on our website from late March 2026 to support applicant groups in preparing their work plans.

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.

Other matters

Kōrero Takutai gets a new look

Te Kete Kōrero a Te Takutai Moana Information Hub has a fresh new design, making it easier to explore marine and coastal maps and data.

The site includes:

- Mapping tool – create basic maps online.
- Data library – access spatial data for your own mapping projects.
- Background information – learn about marine and coastal mapping and related legislation.

Since its launch in 2019, the hub has welcomed more than 30,000 visitors. Now you can try the updated site and get familiar with it before the current version is retired.

You can access the new-look Kōrero Takutai at here: <https://whakatau.govt.nz/KoreroTakutai>

The old site will be retired in April 2026.

If you have any feedback or questions
email korero.takutai@whakatau.govt.nz

December webinars

Thank you to the applicant groups and legal counsel who attended our webinars in December 2025. We appreciated the time you took to join these sessions and engage with officials.

During the webinars, we provided updates on the core changes introduced by the Amendment Act, discussed what re-hearings may involve, and outlined recent updates to the Financial Assistance Scheme. You can watch a recording of the webinar here: [Te Tari Whakatau - Updates for applicants](#)

Upcoming engagement

We know there is strong interest in understanding next steps for individual applications. Over the coming months, we will be undertaking further engagement with all applicant groups to ensure we have up-to-date information about applications, and that applicants have clear, consistent information about process, pathways, and what support is available.

We expect this outreach to begin in March or April 2026 and continue through to June 2026. Further information about this engagement will be shared closer to the time.