



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

30 August 2024

## MEDIA STATEMENT

# Chief Justice pays tribute to Kīngi Tūheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII

Kua tanuku te tihi ki Taupiri  
Kua komuhu te au o Waikato  
Kua po te ao  
Ina ia he taniwha hikuroa koia kua riro ki tua o Pae-whakamoe-ariki

On behalf of the New Zealand judiciary, Chief Justice Helen Winkelmann has today paid tribute to Kīngi Tūheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII.

Kīngi Tūheitia was crowned in 2006 following the death of his mother, Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu. As the seventh monarch, Kīngi Tūheitia has been at the forefront of Māori issues and represented Te Kiingitanga at several events during his reign, including the funerals of King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga in 2006 and Queen Elizabeth II in 2022. Kīngi Tūheitia also attended the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in London in 2023.

“It is with great sadness that I learned today of the passing of Kīngi Tūheitia. I acknowledge his extraordinary service to Tainui and Māori,” the Chief Justice said.

“While his passing is an occasion for sadness, that he recently marked the Koroneihana celebrations at Tūrangawaewae is a reason to celebrate his remarkable reign.”

“On behalf of the judiciary, I express my sorrow at his death and my sympathy to Te Atawhai, Te Makau Ariki, and their children Whatumoana, Korotangi and Ngawai Hono I Te Po.”

Moe mai ra e te ringa i tuia ai te iwi  
Moe mai ra e te reo i awhitia ai te motu.

### Media contact

Reweti Kohere  
Senior Communications Advisor  
027 224 8857 [reweti.kohere@justice.govt.nz](mailto:reweti.kohere@justice.govt.nz)