

1924.
NEW ZEALAND.

NATIVE LAND AMENDMENT AND NATIVE LAND CLAIMS
ADJUSTMENT ACT, 1923.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON PETITION No. 237 OF 1921, OF NUPERE WAAKA AND OTHERS,
RELATIVE TO THE OWNERSHIP OF RANGIAHUA ISLAND.

*Presented to Parliament in pursuance of Section 31 of the Native Land Amendment and Native Land
Claims Adjustment Act, 1923.*

Native Department, Wellington, 15th January, 1924.

Petition No. 237 of 1921—Rangiahua Island.

PURSUANT to section 31 of the Native Land Amendment and Native Land Claims Adjustment Act, 1923, I forward report of the Native Land Court herein. The Natives have a statutory right to have their title to the island investigated by the Native Land Court, so that no further legislation is necessary.

When it was before the Court on a former occasion the application was dismissed for want of a plan. It will be necessary for the parties to see that the regulations in this respect are complied with.

R. N. JONES, Chief Judge.

The Hon. the Native Minister, Wellington.

In the Native Land Court of New Zealand, Tokerau District.—In the matter of the Native Land Amendment and Native Land Claims Adjustment Act, 1923; and in the matter of a reference by the Chief Judge of the Native Land Court to the said Native Land Court under section 31 of the said Act for inquiry and report upon a petition by certain Natives praying for a return of Rangiahua Island.

SIR,—

I have the honour to report that upon your reference an inquiry was held in reference to above petition. The inquiry took the form of endeavouring to ascertain whether or not Rangiahua Island is Crown land.

Mr. Quartley and Mr. Blomfield represented the petitioners, while Mr. Darby appeared on behalf of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, North Auckland Land District.

Mr. Quartley contended that the Crown had never, by deed or otherwise, acquired this island from the Native owners. He challenged the Crown Lands Department to produce any document that could substantiate the alleged purchase by the Crown.

No evidence was called by either side, but many documents were submitted to the Court for its perusal.