

# Mana whenua outcome in June

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Maori affairs reporter

AN adjudication process sorting out iwi land rights within Kaingaroa Forest is still on target for a June 20 outcome.

The eight iwi entities that signed up to the \$418 million Central North Island forestry settlement began meeting in Rotorua on April 14 with three adjudicators to determine mana whenua (territorial rights) to specific areas within the 176,000-hectare forest.

Mana whenua boundaries were to have been formalised two years after the massive Treaty of Waitangi settlement – by July 1, 2011 – but differences of opinion delayed the process.

The adjudicators are lawyer and



**Matt Te Pou,**  
CNI Iwi Holdings  
chairman

academic Moana Jackson, te reo Maori advocate Wayne Ngata and former Ngai Tahu chief executive Tahu Potiki.

CNI Iwi Holdings chairman Matt Te Pou said the different iwi groups were making closing submissions and still focused on hearing an outcome from the adjudicators by June 20.

Mr Te Pou said at the outset of the process each group provided an

overview of its relationship with Kaingaroa.

The next stage involved provision of more detailed evidence of iwi links to nine crown forest licence areas within Kaingaroa where adjudication was required to establish mana whenua, he said.

For the other 14 CFL blocks, mana whenua adjudication was not required as agreement has already been reached by iwi groups involved.

Mr Te Pou said field trips into Kaingaroa spanning “a week and a half” had been part of the process.

In parallel to the adjudication hearings, iwi talked directly to each other “to see if after hearing each other’s stories and talk about those lands they may, in discussions among themselves, achieve a breakthrough”.