



NEW ZEALAND – January 2026

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COUPLE MUST PAY \$488,219 IN UNPAID RATES AFTER LOSING COURT BATTLE TO GET ‘MĀORI LAND’ TREATMENT

This article reports that a Taranaki couple have been told to pay \$488,219 in rates they have refused to pay for five years. The article reviews the background history of the land and provides information relating to the reasons for the high court judge’s decision that the taxpayers were attempting to circumvent the proper procedures for challenging the property tax assessment of the land.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Couple must pay \\$488,219 in unpaid rates after losing court battle to get ‘Māori land’ treatment | Stuff](#)

MAN SAYS HIS HOUSE IS AN EMBASSY AND HE WILL NEVER PAY RATES

This article relates to the non-payment of rates on a one-bedroomed 1940 house in Ngāruawāhia for the past 18 years because the owner claims to be an ambassador, and the house the embassy of Te-Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa (te reo for the Pacific Ocean). The case for the taxpayer, that the land is Māori customary land, has seen ruling against him in the local court and the High Court, and an appeal to the Court of Appeal declined.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

[Man says his house is an embassy and he will never pay rates | Stuff](#)