

## Addendum to Ngāti Taka – Cultural Impact Assessment

This Addendum has been prepared by Mikaere Leef and Caine Taiapa on behalf of Ngāti Taka Hapu Trust.

This Addendum is prepared for Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency) in response to and following the review of preliminary assessments conducted by various external agencies regarding the Takitimu North Link Stage 2 project. A previous Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA)<sup>1</sup> has already been completed by Ngāti Taka, and its findings remain valid. This Addendum serves as a supplement to the original document, providing additional information rather than replacing any existing content.

### Archaeological Assessment

The Assessment of Archaeological Values for the Takitimu North Link Stage 2 Project aligns with Ngāti Taka's priorities. Protecting significant sites is essential, especially given the likelihood that undiscovered archaeological features may be modified or destroyed. Ngāti Taka recognizes archaeology as a tool to support oral histories. This Project provides an opportunity to share their history and connection to Tauranga Moana. Ngāti Taka supports necessary development but insists on meaningful engagement and adherence to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Ngāti Taka welcome the opportunity to ensure the area's history and cultural integrity are respected.

#### Key Concerns

- The project area has been inhabited for 500–600 years and holds significant cultural and historical value. Given its national historic importance, it must be treated with the highest level of care and respect. While the Archaeological Assessment recognises this, it fails to adequately account for the significance of intangible heritage.
- Kōiwi (human remains) will likely be found, requiring strict adherence to tikanga and the involvement of Ngāti Taka leadership in their handling.

#### Recommendations

1. Full implementation of mitigation measures, as outlined in the Archaeological Assessment.<sup>2</sup>
2. Direct meeting and consultation with archaeologists.
3. A formal plan for kōiwi discoveries, in alignment with recommendation A (v) of the Archaeological Assessment.<sup>3</sup>
4. Mandate hapū-led cultural monitoring during all archaeological investigations.

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<sup>1</sup> Leef, M. 2023. *Ngāti Taka Cultural Impact Assessment for Takitimu North Link (Stage 2)*.

<sup>2</sup> "Assessment of Archaeological Values: Takitimu North Link Stage 2," p. 65.

<sup>3</sup> At [66].

## Ecological Assessment

The Ecological Impact Assessment (EIA)<sup>4</sup> outlines basic mitigation measures but does not fully protect Ngāti Taka’s cultural and ecological interests. Embedding a hapū-led monitoring and management framework at all stages of the TNLS2 project is essential to uphold kaitiakitanga and safeguard Ngāti Taka’s heritage and environment.

### Key Concerns

- The EIA does not recognize cultural landscapes as interconnected, dynamic systems that require holistic protection and active kaitiakitanga.
- Planned wetland restoration lacks a clear hapū-led governance structure, creating risks that offsets will occur outside Ngāti Taka rohe.
- Current mitigation measures (e.g., sediment traps) lack site-specific protections for culturally significant estuarine areas.

### Recommendations

5. Recognize cultural landscapes as interconnected ecosystems, not isolated sites.
6. Mandate hapū-led cultural monitoring at all construction, excavation, and restoration sites.
7. Require Ngāti Taka marine monitoring and kaimoana impact assessments.
8. Implement a hapū-run water quality monitoring program.
9. Establish Ngāti Taka employment and training pathways.

## Construction Air Discharge Assessment

### Key Concerns

- It is likely that construction activities will disrupt air quality, water, and the cultural eco-balance.
- While the overall dust impact on ecological areas is considered low, it is not negligible. Maintaining te mauri o te taiao (the life force of the environment) remains a top priority for Ngāti Taka.

### Recommendations

10. Ensure all recommendations in Section 4.1 of the Construction Air Discharge Assessment are strictly followed.
11. Where possible, plant native species as windbreaks instead of artificial barriers to reduce dust.

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<sup>4</sup> A. Blayney, et al. “Takitimu North Link – Stage 2 Ecological Effects Assessment Prepared for NZTA” 23 April 2024.

12. Notify Ngāti Taka if significant dust is expected, ensuring activities do not disrupt key cultural events (e.g., iwi gatherings, tangihanga, marae events).

## Construction Water Assessment

### Key Concerns

- Waterways in the project area are classified as "low ecological value,"<sup>5</sup> but this is attributed to long-term neglect rather than inherent lack of importance.
- Restoration is critical to enhancing water health and mauri and requires sustainable, culturally informed mitigation strategies.

### Recommendations

13. Ensure Ngāti Taka representatives are actively involved in water monitoring and management throughout the project.
14. Prioritize culturally significant plants like harakeke and raupō to restore waterway health.

## Groundwater Impact Assessment

### Key Concerns

- The TNLS2 project is in an area with numerous freshwater springs that have sustained both people and the environment for generations. Ngāti Taka emphasizes the deep cultural and spiritual significance of water as a taonga with mauri (life force).

### Recommendations

15. Ensure any diverted or extracted groundwater is returned to the whenua in a way that preserves its mauri, rather than being permanently redirected elsewhere.

## Landscape Visual Assessment

### Key Concerns

- TNLS2 will significantly alter the natural character of the landscape through earthworks, bridges, and vegetation removal. For Ngāti Taka, these changes are more than physical—they represent a disruption to ancestral and cultural identity.

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<sup>5</sup> C. Stewart. Southern Skies Environmental Ltd, *Takitimu North Link Stage 2 Construction Water Assessment Report*, April 2024, at [10].

### Recommendations

16. Incorporate Māori place names, signage, and Ngāti Taka narratives into the design of public spaces, bridges, and pathways.
17. Ensure Ngāti Taka input in landscape and visual design plans to maintain cultural identity and ecological integrity.
18. Prioritize native and culturally significant species like harakeke, tī kōuka, and rongoā plants for revegetation.

## Soil Contamination Assessment

### Key Concerns

- The Soil Contamination Assessment focuses only on scientific and regulatory compliance, overlooking tikanga-based approaches to contamination management.

### Recommendations

19. Ngāti Taka should lead tikanga-based protection and restoration efforts for any environmental soil contamination.