

Your Comment on the Taranaki VTM Project

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments.

1. Contact Details	
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.	
Organisation name (if relevant)	Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui
First name	[REDACTED]
Last name	[REDACTED]
Postal address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]
Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)	[REDACTED]

2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment			
☒	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	☐	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

3. Please select the effects (positive or negative) that your comments address:			
☐	Economic Effects	☒	Sedimentation and Optical Water Quality Effects
☐	Effects on Coastal Processes	☐	Benthic Ecology and Primary Productivity Effects
☒	Fished Species	☐	Seabirds
☐	Marine Mammals	☐	Noise Effects
☐	Human Health Effects of the Marine Discharge Activities	☐	Visual, Seascape and Natural Character Effects
☐	Air Quality Effects	☒	Effects on Existing Interests
☒	Other Considerations (please specify): Mouri, customary and commercial fishery interests		



1. Ko wai mātou – who we are

*Ngā wai inuina o Ruatipua ēnā
Ngā manga iti, ngā manga nui e honohono kau ana
Ka hono, ka tupu, hei awa
Hei Awa Tupua*

*Those are the drinking fonts of Ruatipua
The small and large streams which flow into one another
And continue to link, and swell until a river is formed
Te Awa Tupua*

*E rere kau mai te Awa nui
Mai i te Kāhui Maunga ki Tangaroa
Ko au te Awa, ko te Awa ko au*

*The Great River flows
From the Mountains to the Sea
I am the River, and the River is me*

- 1.1. In 2003 Te Ohu Kai Moana (TOKM), the Maori Fisheries Commission, settled upon an allocation model for the national Fisheries Settlement of 1992 commonly referred to as the 'Sealords Deal.' This allocation model, together with guidelines for the establishment of Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIO) to receive the assets, was subsequently legislated in the Maori Fisheries Act 2004. It was under these circumstances that Whanganui, in respect of Te Atihaunui a Paparangi was compelled to establish a MIO entity by 2006 to accept its share of those assets, such share being valued at just over \$5.6 million at the time of transfer from TOKM.
- 1.2. Following several hui-ā-iwi, the iwi gave its assent to the establishment of an appropriate body to receive and manage their allocation and a deed was drafted. Te Whiringa Muka Trust (Te Whiringa Muka) was duly constituted on 1 October 2006. It was decided that the Trust's sole purpose was to receive and manage the assets of the Fisheries settlement on behalf of the hapū of Te Atihaunui a Paparangi and other Whanganui Iwi.
- 1.3. Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited is a NZ limited company that was established in 2006 as the commercial arm of Te Whiringa Muka. Since its establishment the company has actively traded its ACE to increase the profit shares for Te Whiringa Muka and ultimately the hapū of Te Atihaunui a Paparangi, Whanganui Iwi.
- 1.4. Since 2006 the Commercial and Customary (in conjunction with the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board) fisheries interests of Te Atihaunui a Paparangi, and other Whanganui

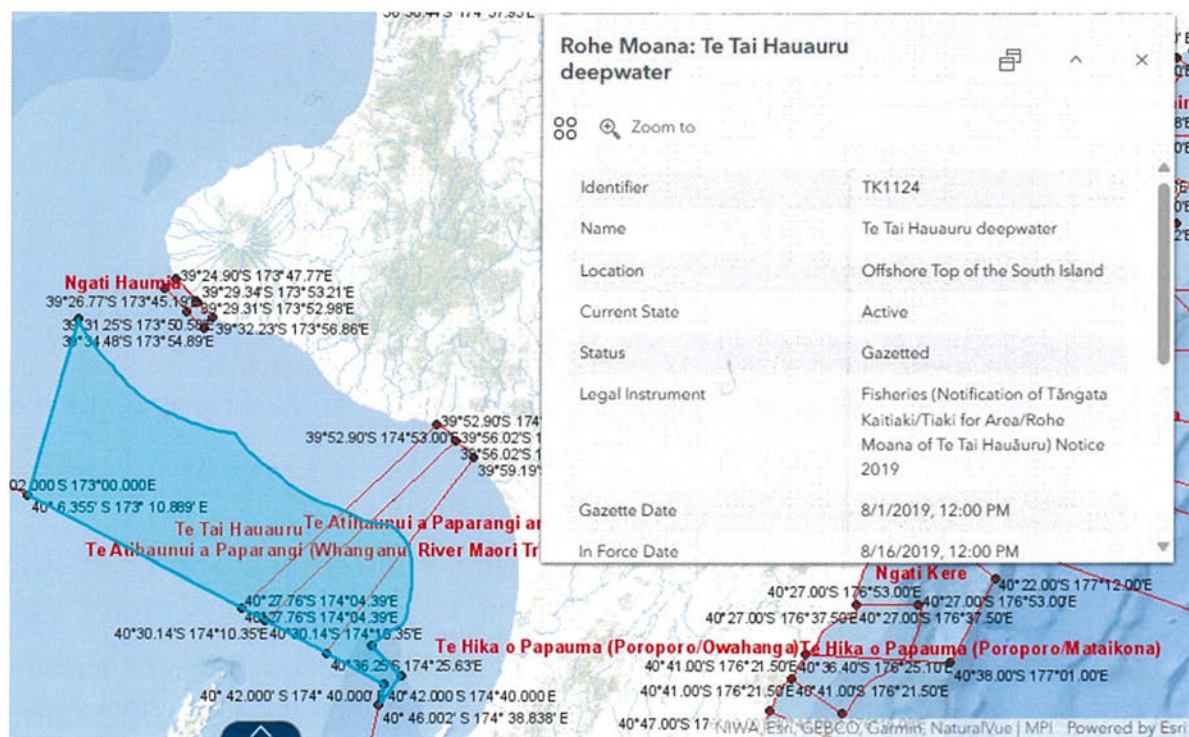
Iwi have actively upheld and developed Te Whiringa Muka, through Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited.

1.5. Extensive work and collective agreements have been achieved throughout the years in terms of coastline agreements and in doing so bought about cohesion and collective commercial strategies with neighbouring iwi, Ngā Rauru Kiitahi and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa and more broadly all iwi of Fishing Management Area 8 (FMA8).

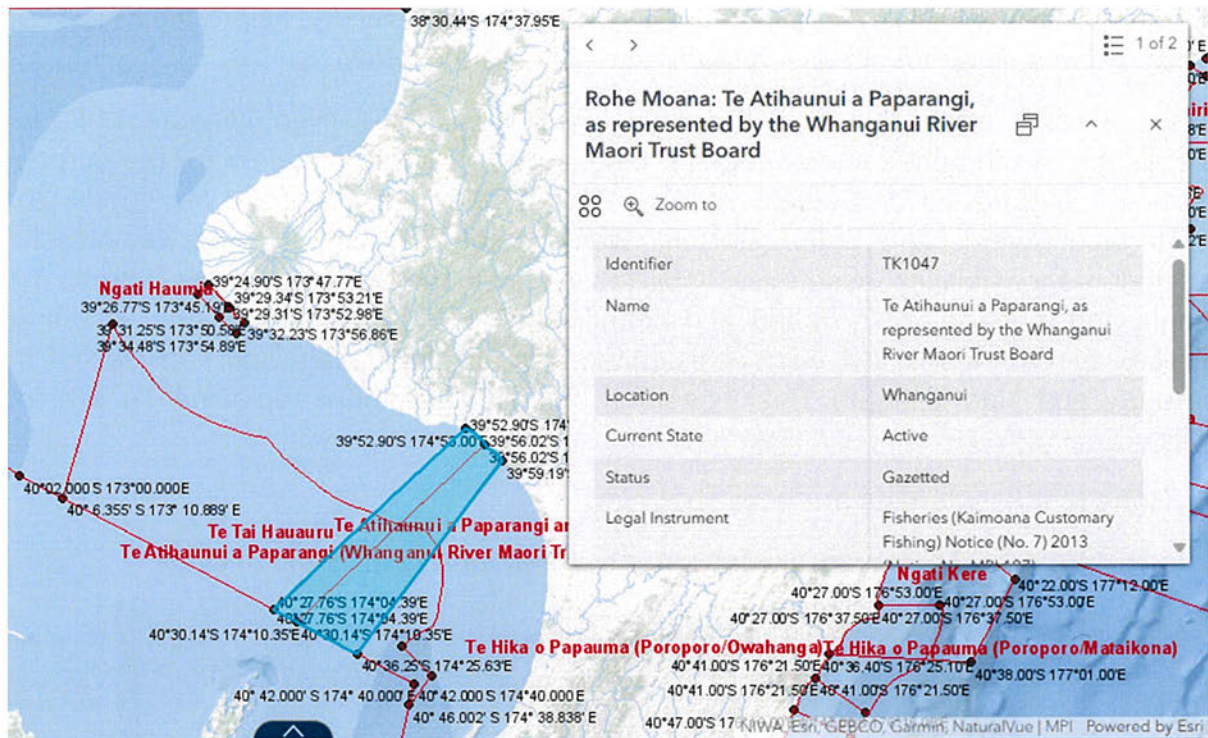
1.6. On the 4th of August 2024 Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui (Ngā Tāngata Tiaki) was established as the post-settlement governance entity for Whanganui Iwi for the purposes of the Whanganui River Settlement. Once the Settlement Bill (Te Awa Tupua 2017 (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Bill) was enacted Te Whiringa Muka was dissolved and their responsibilities, assets and liabilities vested in the trustees of Ngā Tāngata Tiaki to hold and manage for the hapū and beneficiaries of Whanganui Iwi. Any assets and liabilities of Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited, remain the assets and liabilities of that company and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki becomes the MIO (therefore replacing Te Whiringa Muka).

1.7. Our Rohe Moana interests are depicted below.

1.7.1. Picture 1 Te Tai Hauauru Deepwater Rohe Moana highlighted in cyan:



1.7.2. Picture 2 reflects Te Atihaunui a Paparangi Rohe Moana in cyan:



2. Tā mātou urupare – Our response

2.1. Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui object in totality to the Fast Track substantive application of Trans-Tasman Resources Limited (TTRL), Taranaki VTM Project under the Fasttrack Approvals Act 2024..

2.2. Fundamentally our objections are underpinned by the fact that;

- 2.2.1. The practice of extracting iron sand affects the mouri of Tangaroa and therefore the kawa central to our Tangata Tiaki role in the care and protection of our rohe moana.
- 2.2.2. The area identified includes resources and habitat for the life cycles and seasonal migration of fish that comprise the customary and commercial fish stocks of Te Atihaunui a Paparangi, Whanganui Iwi.
- 2.2.3. The activities will have adverse implications for the rights and commercial interests for which Te Whiringa Muka, through Whanganui Iwi Fisheries Limited, hold and for cooperative enterprises that have been explored in conjunction with other iwi of Te Taihauauru. The rights of Whanganui Iwi in this regard are guaranteed under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the settlements it has reached with the Crown to date as well as future settlements.

2.2.4. Trans-Tasman Resources Limited (TTRL) have failed to establish any enduring relationships with Te Atihaunui a Paparangi or the hapū whose interests lay within the area depicted in picture 1 and 2.

2.2.5. The environmental effects of the sediment plume on ecosystems have not been resolved. This is of particular concern noting the unknown impacts on the customary and commercial fisheries.

3. Tautoko ki ngā whanaunga o tai – supporting comments

3.1. Ngā Tāngata Tiaki wishes to confirm our support for the position and related comments of our whānaunga on the coast whose rohe moana and whenua is directly impacted by the Taranaki VTM project. In particular;

3.1.1. Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust

3.1.2. Ngāti Ruanui

3.1.3. Te Kaahui o Rauru, and

3.1.4. Taranaki iwi

3.2. In addition to this we wish to confirm our support for the response provided from Te Ohu Kai Moana and the role they play in working alongside our iwi to protect our rights and interests derived from the Māori Fisheries Settlements. The Māori Fisheries Settlement, the Māori Fisheries Act 2004, and the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004.

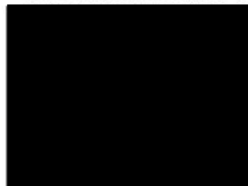
4. Kōrero whakamutunga - Conclusion

In closing we look to a quote from the late Tā Te Atawhai Archie Taiaroa at the Te Ohu Kaimoana AGM in 2010.

“Our responsibilities are beyond our lifetimes and those of our children”

The impacts and effects of an operation of the nature and the extent as proposed by the Taranaki VTM are untested in the oceans of Te Tai Hauauru, and more broadly anywhere in Aotearoa, New Zealand. We totally object to being the first.

Nō reira I raro I te oranganutanga o Tangaroa, nā



Kaihautū – Chief Executive Officer