

Hon James Meager

Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport



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JMITC-27



By email: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Fast-track Approvals Act – Waihi North Project (FTAA-2504-1046)

Dear Nicky

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the draft decision of the Waihi North project under section 72 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. You requested comment from Hon Tama Potaka as Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and Minister for Māori Development. I am responding as Acting Minister of those portfolios.

I support the decision of the Expert Panel and the conditions subject to that decision, on the basis that:

- the Expert Panel has acknowledged the obligations within the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Claims Settlement Act 2018, Pare Hauraki Collective Redress Deed of Settlement, signed August 2018 and Ngāti Tara Tokanui Deed of Settlement, signed 28 July 2022;
- the Expert Panel notes substantial engagement has been undertaken by the applicant, which is not inconsistent with obligations under Treaty settlements;
- the Expert Panel has considered the feedback provided by Māori rūpū under Section 53 of the Act and amended the conditions of the approvals to allow Māori participation during the implementation of the project;
- that the applicant continues to engage with mana whenua throughout the project; and
- the application provides regional benefits that support the Governments wider economic aims.

Yours sincerely

Hon James Meager

Acting Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Acting Minister for Māori Development