

BEFORE THE PANEL CONVENER

Application: FTAA-2603-1186

IN THE MATTER of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA)

AND

IN THE MATTER of an Application by Ridgeburn Limited under section 42
of the FTAA for the Ridgeburn Project

**MEMORANDUM OF HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA
IN RESPONSE TO MINUTE 4 OF THE PANEL CONVENER**

29 June 2026

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
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**HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA**

Introduction

- 1 This memorandum is filed on behalf of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) in response to the Minute of the Panel Convenor dated 24 June 2026 (Minute) in respect of the Ridgeburn Project (the Project).
- 2 The Minute refers to an upcoming conference to gather participant views that will inform decisions of the Convenor regarding:
 - a) the appointment of panel members,
 - b) the timing of the panel decision.
- 3 This memorandum addresses the matters identified in the Schedule 1 and 2 of the Minute.

Schedule 1 – Proposed Timeframe

- 4 On 12 June 2026, HNZPT was directed to prepare a Report pursuant to section 51 of the FTAA.
- 5 The application includes an archaeological assessment, draft Archaeological Management Plan (AMP), and a set of proposed conditions. HNZPT confirms that there is sufficient information in order to make a recommendation in its section 51 Report.
- 6 Although early in the drafting in the section 51 Report, there are some matters that will require discussion with Ridgeburn Limited (the Applicant), particularly in respect of conditions and the AMP.
- 7 HNZPT has reviewed the proposed timeframes and offers comment only in relation to the archaeological authority approval, that these timings are achievable in respect of that approval.

Schedule 2 Matters

Approvals

- 8 There is one approval being sought that requires consideration and recommendation by HNZPT, being:
- a) an archaeological authority, which would otherwise be applied for under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (section 42(4)(i)).

Complexity

- 9 HNZPT considers that the archaeological authority application is of low complexity. There are two recorded archaeological sites (F41/62 the Jolly Farmstead and F41/890 Steele's Hut), and potential Kawarau sluicing remains (unrecorded) within the application boundary. HNZPT acknowledges the efforts made by the Applicant to reuse and incorporate the Jolly Farmstead buildings in its design. This is a positive outcome for archaeology and also consistent with the relevant HNZPT Statements of General Policy.

Panel Membership

- 10 Taking all of the above into consideration, HNZPT does not consider there to be any requirement for a person with archaeological experience and experience to be a Panel member.
- 11 In respect of HNZPT's interests, it does not consider there is any requirement to appoint any additional Panel members, however HNZPT recognises that there may be a requirement to do so in relation to other matters.

Procedural Requirements

- 12 In respect of procedural requirements, HNZPT:
- a) is willing to engage directly with both the Applicant and Panel where required to advance the application;
 - b) does not anticipate the need for expert conferencing or wānanga in relation to the archaeological authority; and
 - c) HNZPT confirms that the section 51 Report will be provided within the 10 day period after the Panel invites comments under section 53 of the FTAA.



Mel Russell

Counsel for Heritage New Zealand
Pouhere Taonga