
MINUTE 21 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Request for Information to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the
Māori Heritage Council
Central and Southern Block Mining Project [FTAA-2512-1153]

(14 July 2026)

- [1] The purpose of this Minute is to request information from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) and the Māori Heritage Council on their recommendation to grant an Archaeological Authority for the Taharoa Ironsands Central and Southern Block Mining Project.
- [2] The specific matter of the request is the process for the appointment of nominated kaumātua and/or kaitiaki representatives to undertake various functions in accordance with the recommended Archaeological Authority.
- [3] HNZPT is the administering agency for the HNZPT Act 2014 under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA). The Panel has been provided with a section 51 FTAA report¹ from HNZPT that recommends the granting of an Archaeological Authority and the certification of the Archaeological Management Plan (AMP) provided by the Applicant (Taharoa Ironsands).²
- [4] The recommended Archaeological Authority must be exercised in accordance with the AMP.³ The section titled 'Māori Cultural Values' at page 2 of the AMP states:

In carrying out the requirements of the Authority the Archaeologists will be guided by kaumātua who have been nominated by the Māori landowners, the Proprietors of Taharoa C Block Incorporated, in matters of tikanga.

- [5] The section 51 Report states that the Applicant discussed the AMP and Discovery Protocol with the Proprietors of Taharoa C Block, and the AMP was provided to

¹ Section 51(2)(d) Fast-track Approvals Act 2014 Report Central and Southern Block Mining Project, FTAA-2512-1153 (the section 51 Report) (HNZPT, 6 May 2026).

² Farley, G. 2025, "Archaeological Management Plan: Taharoa Ironsands Mine - Central and Southern Blocks". (October 2025) (AMP); and Taharoa Mine Site Health and Safety – Environmental Procedure: Discovery of Human Remains and/or Items of Cultural Significance (TIL, October, 2025) (Discovery Protocol). Note: The Discovery Protocol is incorporated by reference into the AMP and the proposed conditions of the Archaeological Authority.

³ Recommended Archaeological Authority in the section 51 Report at Condition 2

tangata whenua groups for their review and feedback.⁴ We understand that this feedback was provided to the Applicant, and the content of that feedback was reiterated in the subsequent section 53 comments from Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaaauru, incorporating Aaruka and Te Kooraha Marae.⁵ In relation to this request for information, the comments seek that Te Ruunanga o Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaaauru, Aaruka Marae and Te Kooraha Marae have involvement with the appointment of kaumātua and/or kaitiaki representatives to undertake various functions in accordance with the recommended Archaeological Authority.

- [6] Taharoa C Block is owned by approximately 2,200 shareholders, many of whom whakapapa to local marae and hapū. Taharoa C consider that the exercise of mana motuhake should also be recognised in the management of archaeological finds. Specifically, Taharoa C should have the ability to engage kaumātua representatives and to lead any tikanga processes on its whenua as appropriate. HNZPT is referred to the Taharoa C response to section 53 comments in this regard.⁶
- [7] Notwithstanding the matters of ownership and whakapapa, the proprietors of Taharoa C Block recognise that it is the hapu of Ngaati Mahuta ki Tai who have mana whenua within the Taharoa rohe and that this mana whenua is held exclusively by the two Ngaati Mahuta marae at Taharoa, being Aaruka Marae and Te Kooraha Marae, and thirdly Maketuu Marae at Kawhia.⁷
- [8] The question that the Panel has for NZHPT is how it generally expects an Archaeological Authority to recognise the respective roles of Māori landowners, mana whenua and marae where these roles overlap as they do at Taharoa.
- [9] The Panel requests that the HNZPT response is received by 5pm Tuesday 21 July 2026.



Dave Serjeant
Central and Southern Block Mining Project Expert Panel Chair

⁴ Section 51 Report at [23]

⁵ Section 53(3) Comment Te Ruunanga o Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaaauru Charitable Trust, Maketuu Marae, Te Kooraha Marae, and Aaruka Marae (Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaaauru) (Iarau Ltd, 19 May 2026).

⁶ Attachment N to the Applicant's response to section 53 Comments Received

⁷ Substantive Application Appendix II Primary Statement of Evidence of Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr dated 23 January 2024 at [13] and [19]