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### MINUTE 3 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Invitation to  
comment Taranaki  
VTM Project [FTAA-  
2504-1048]

(8 September 2025)

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[1] This minute addresses invitations to comment on the application under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2025 (the Act).

[2] In accordance with section 53(2) of the Act, the Expert Panel must invite comments from persons listed in sections 53(2) (a) to (n) of the Act. The Panel notes that section 53(2)(m)(v) applies for this application (marine consent) which requires persons listed in section 46(1)(b)(ii) of the EEZ Act to also be invited to provide written comments. The Panel considers the persons identified in Appendix 1 and 2 must be invited for comment.

[3] The Panel may also invite written comments from any other person that the Panel considers appropriate under section 53(3) of the Act. The Panel considers it appropriate to invite comments from the person or groups identified under 53(3) in appendix 1.

[4] Section 54(1) of the Act requires that the Panel must specify in the invitation a date for when comments must be received by the EPA on behalf of the Panel (which must be 20 working days after the date on which the invitation is given under section 53).

[5] The date invitations to comments will be given will be Monday, 8 September 2025. Comments must be made to the EPA:

- (a) by email to [substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz);
- (b) by post to Private Bag 63002, Wellington, 6140, New Zealand; or
- (c) in person to Stewart Dawson's Corner, 366 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011

[6] Comments must be received by **Monday, 6 October 2025**.

[7] To assist the panel in efficiently considering the comments received, commenters are encouraged, where possible, to collaborate with others who may share similar views or concerns. Making joint comments that consolidate overlapping issues can help ensure that the panel receives a comprehensive yet streamlined set of comments. This approach not only reduces duplication but also supports a more effective review process within the tight timeframes set out under the Act.

[8] The application form includes a checklist of matters outlined by the applicant in their Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) document found on the fast-track website -<https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/taranaki-vtm/substantive-application>. Commenters are encouraged to use this checklist to identify the specific area(s) of the application they wish to comment on. Selecting the relevant field(s) will help the panel to quickly understand the focus of each comment and group-related feedback for consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kit Toogood', is positioned above the printed name.

**Hon. Kit  
Toogood KC**  
Expert panel chair

## Appendix 1

### Person prescribed under section 53(2)

#### **53(2)(a) relevant local authorities**

Taranaki Regional Council

Horizons Regional Council

South Taranaki District Council

Whanganui District Council

New Plymouth District Council

Horowhenua District Council [email from Monique Davidson to EPA 17 March 2025]

Rangitikei District Council [letter from Andy Watson to EPA 19 March 2025]

#### **53(2)(b) and (c) the relevant iwi authorities and treaty settlement entities**

Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust

Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust

Te Kaahui o Rauru Trust

Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui

Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust

Ngā Wairiki-Ngāti Apa Charitable Trust

Te Ohu Kaimoana

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Tama

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga

Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust

Maru (Taranaki) Fisheries Trust

#### **Section 53(2)(d), (e) and (f) any relevant protected customary rights groups, applicant groups under the Takutai Moana Act, and ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (if applicable)**

N/A - The project area is beyond the boundaries of the common marine and coastal area as it is beyond the 12 nautical miles from the low water mark.

**53(2)(g) the tangata whenua of any taiāpure-local fishery, mātaaitai reserve, or area subject to Part 9 Fisheries Act bylaws or regulations within the project area**

The section 18 report identifies the following tāngata whenua:

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Tama

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga

Ngāti Maru (Taranaki) Fisheries Trust

Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui

Ngā Hapū o Ngāruahine Trust

Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust

Te Kaahui o Rauru

Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui

Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki

Te Patiki Holdings Ltd representing Ngāti Hauiti

Te Ohu Tiaki o Rangitāne Te Ika a Māui

Muaūpoko Tribal Authority

Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust

Raukawa ki te Tonga Trust

Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc

Te Atiawa Poneke.

**53(2)(h) and (i) the owners and occupiers of the land subject to the application and adjacent land**

N/A

**53(2)(j) the Minister for the Environment and other relevant portfolio Ministers**

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

Minister for Conservation

Minister for Resources

Minister for Māori Development

Minister for Māori Crown Relations

Attorney-General

Minister for Climate Change

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Transport  
 Minister for Trade and Investment  
 Minister for Justice  
 Minister for Land Information  
 Minister for Biosecurity  
 Minister for Infrastructure

**53(2)(k) relevant administering agencies**

Ministry for the Environment  
 Environmental Protection Authority

**53(2)(l) any requiring authority that has a designation on land to which the substantive application relates or on land adjacent to that land**

N/A

**53(2)(m) if the approvals sought in the substantive application include**

(v) an approval described in [section 42\(4\)\(k\)](#) (marine consent), the persons listed in [clause 5](#) of Schedule 10:

For the purposes of section 53(2)(m)(v),

5(a) the persons are those listed in section [46\(1\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#) of the EEZ Act;

Note, section 46(1)(b)(ii) of the EEZ Act must be read as if references to the EPA were references to the panel.

See following rows which include 46(1)(b)(ii)(A-G)

**46(1)(b)(ii)(A) every other Minister with responsibilities that may be affected by the activity for which consent is sought: (see those listed against 53(2)(j))**

Minister for the Environment  
 Minister for Oceans and Fisheries  
 Minister for Conservation  
 Minister for Resources  
 Minister for Māori Development  
 Minister for Māori Crown Relations  
 Attorney-General  
 Minister for Climate Change  
 Minister for Regional Development  
 Minister for Economic Development  
 Minister for Transport  
 Minister for Trade and Investment  
 Minister for Justice  
 Minister for Land Information

Minister for Biosecurity  
Minister for Infrastructure

**46(1)(b)(ii)(B) Maritime New Zealand:**

Maritime New Zealand

**46(1)(b)(ii)(C) iwi authorities that the Panel considers may be affected by the application:**

Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust  
Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust  
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust  
Te Kaahui o Rauru Trust  
Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui  
Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust  
Ngā Wairiki-Ngāti Apa Charitable Trust

**46(1)(b)(ii)(D) customary marine title groups that the Panel considers may be affected by the application:**

MAC-01-10-005 / CIV-2017-485-183 Ngā Rauru Kiitahi;  
MAC-01-10-006 / CIV-2017-485-293 Ngāti Hāua hapū, Ngaruahinerangi iwi;  
MAC-01-10-009 / CIV-2017-485-300 Ngāti Tamaahuroa and Titahi Hapū- Oeo Pā Trustees;  
MAC-01-10-019 / CIV-2017-485-282 Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust;  
MAC-01-10-001 / CIV-2017-485-210 Araukuuku Hapū;  
MAC-01-10-010 / CIV-2017-485-213 Ngāti Tu;  
MAC-01-10-013 / CIV-2017-485-212 Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi;  
MAC-01-10-017 / CIV-2017-485-243 Ngā Hapū o Ngāruahine;  
MAC-01-10-018 / CIV-2017-485-254 Te Patutokotoko;  
MAC-01-10-009 / CIV-2017-485-301 Te Awa Tupua and Ngā Hapū me ngā Uri o Te Iwi o Whanganui;  
CIV-2011-485-797 Ngāti Manuhiakai;  
CIV-2011-485-803 Okahu Inuawai hapū; and  
CIV-2011-485-814 Kānihi Umutahi me Ētahi hapū

**46(1)(b)(ii)(E) protected customary rights groups that the Panel considers may be affected by the application:**

MAC-01-10-005 / CIV-2017-485-183 Ngā Rauru Kiitahi;  
MAC-01-10-006 / CIV-2017-485-293 Ngāti Hāua hapū, Ngaruahinerangi iwi;  
MAC-01-10-009 / CIV-2017-485-300 Ngāti Tamaahuroa and Titahi Hapū- Oeo Pā Trustees;  
MAC-01-10-019 / CIV-2017-485-282 Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust;  
MAC-01-10-001 / CIV-2017-485-210 Araukuuku Hapū;  
MAC-01-10-010 / CIV-2017-485-213 Ngāti Tu;  
MAC-01-10-013 / CIV-2017-485-212 Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi;

MAC-01-10-017 / CIV-2017-485-243 Ngā Hapū o Ngāruahine;  
 MAC-01-10-018 / CIV-2017-485-254 Te Patutokotoko;  
 MAC-01-10-009 / CIV-2017-485-301 Te Awa Tupua and Ngā Hapū me ngā Uri o Te Iwi o Whanganui;  
 CIV-2011-485-797 Ngāti Manuhiakai;  
 CIV-2011-485-803 Okahu Inuawai hapū; and  
 CIV-2011-485-814 Kānihi Umutahi me Ētahi hapū

**46(1)(b)(ii)(F) other persons that the Panel considers have existing interests that may be affected by the application:**

See appendix 2

**46(1)(b)(ii)(G) regional councils whose regions may be affected by the application.**

Taranaki Regional Council  
 Horizons Regional Council

**53(2)(n) any persons or groups specified by the Minister under section 27(3)(b)(iii).**

N/A - this is a listed project

**53(3) Comments may be invited from any other person the panel considers appropriate.**

Te Tōpuni Ngārahu Trust (Ngā Iwi ō Taranaki Collective)  
 Parihaka Papakāinga Trust  
 Climate Justice Taranaki  
 Kiwis Against Seabed Mining Inc.  
 Greenpeace Aotearoa Inc.  
 Parkwind NV  
 Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand  
 Taranaki Offshore Partnership  
 Environmental Defence Society  
 Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment  
 Ngatitamarongo/Ngatikahumate Māori land blocks  
 Ōkahu Inuāwai me etehi atu Hapū  
 Taipakē Marae and uri of Ngāti Tamareheroto  
 Whenuakura Marae  
 Sanford Limited  
 Talley's Group Ltd  
 Sealord Limited  
 Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd  
 Raukura Moana Seafoods Ltd  
 Ngai Tahu Seafood Resources Ltd  
 Ngati Porou Seafoods Ltd

Pupuri Taonga Ltd

Egmont Seafoods

Nelson Vessels

Fluffy Duck Charters Ltd

Hy-jinks Fishing Charters

Cape Egmont Boat Club

Ngāti Koata



## Appendix 2

**46(1)(b)(ii)(F) - other persons that the Panel considers have existing interests that may be affected by the application (as defined by the EEZ act)**

**Section 4(1)(a) any lawfully established existing activity, whether or not authorised by or under any legislation, including rights of access, navigation, and fishing:**

### **Oil and Gas Operators**

Beach Energy Resources NZ (Kupe) Limited – Permit number 38146

Westside New Zealand Limited – Permit number 38155 and 38151

OMV New Zealand Limited – Permit number 381012 and 38160

MBIE – Permit number 38158

### **Minerals Prospecting Permit**

Tectoniq Pacific Limited - Permit Application number - 61389.01

### **Fisheries groups**

Seafood New Zealand

SNZ Deepwater Council

Te Ohu Kaimoana

FishServe

Moana New Zealand

NZ Rock Lobster Industry Council

### **Fisheries Quota Holders and ACE Holders (FMA 8)**

818 identified

### **Navigation and Access**

Port Taranaki Ltd

Whanganui Port Limited Partnership

### **Recreational groups**

Bodyboard Surfing New Zealand

Cape Egmont Boat Club

Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust

Dive New Zealand

East End Surf Life Saving Club

Fitzroy Surf Life Saving Club

KASK (Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers)

Kaupokonui & District Beach Society Inc

<p>Mokau Fishing Club</p> <p>New Plymouth Sportfishing and Underwater Club</p> <p>New Zealand Tournament Waterski Association Inc</p> <p>New Zealand Underwater Association</p> <p>NP Old Boys Surf Club</p> <p>NZ Sport Fishing Council Inc</p> <p>Ohawe Boating and Angling Club</p> <p>Opunake Boardriders</p> <p>Opunake Boating &amp; Underwater Club Inc</p> <p>Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club</p> <p>Opunake Surfcasting and Angling Club</p> <p>Patea &amp; Districts Boating Club</p> <p>South Taranaki Coastguard</p> <p>South Taranaki Fishing Charters</p> <p>South Taranaki Underwater Club</p> <p>Surf Life Saving New Zealand</p> <p>Surfing New Zealand</p> <p>Surfing Taranaki Inc</p> <p>Taranaki Windsurf Club</p> <p>Triathlon New Zealand</p> <p>Urenui Boat Club</p> <p>Waitara Boating Club Inc</p> <p>Waitara Offshore Fishing Club</p> <p>Waitara Swimming &amp; Surf Lifesaving Club</p> <p>Waka Ama NZ (Nga Kaihoe o Aotearoa Inc)</p> <p>West Coast North Island marine mammal sanctuary</p> <p>Windsurfing New Zealand</p> <p>Yachting New Zealand</p>
<p><b>Section 4(1)(b) any activity that may be undertaken under the authority of an existing marine consent granted under section 62:</b></p> <p>Beach Energy Resources NZ (Kupe) Limited</p> <p>OMV New Zealand</p> <p>MBIE (took over from Tamarind Taranaki Ltd)</p>
<p><b>Section 4(1)(c) any activity that may be undertaken under the authority of an existing resource consent granted under the Resource Management Act 1991:</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Section 4(1)(d) and (e) Settlements under the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975 including Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims Act) Settlement Act 1992:</b></p> <p>Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust, PSGE for Taranaki Iwi Claims Settlement Act 2016 and MIO for Taranaki Iwi;</p>

Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust, PSGE for Ngāruahine Claims Settlement Act 2016 and MIO for Ngāruahine;  
 Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust, PSGE for Ngāti Ruanui Claims Settlement Act 2003 and MIO for Ngāti Ruanui;  
 Te Kaahui o Rauru Trust, PSGE for Ngāa Rauru Claims Settlement Act 2005 and MIO for Ngā Rauru Kītahi;  
 Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, PSGE for Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017 and MIO for Whanganui Iwi/Te Atihaunui a Pāpārangi;  
 Ngā Wairiki-Ngāti Apa Charitable Trust, PSGE for Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010 and MIO for Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa;  
 Te Ohu Kaimoana, under the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992, Maori Fisheries Act 2004;  
 Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Tama, MIO for Ngāti Tama (Taranaki);  
 Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga, MIO for Ngāti Mutunga (Taranaki);  
 Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust, MIO for Te Ātiawa (Taranaki); and  
 Maru (Taranaki) Fisheries Trust, MIO for Ngāti Maru (Taranaki)

Section 4(1)(f) a protected customary right or customary marine title recognised under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011:

MAC-01-10-005 / CIV-2017-485-183 Ngā Rauru Kītahi;  
 MAC-01-10-006 / CIV-2017-485-293 Ngāti Hāua hapū, Ngaruahinerangi iwi;  
 MAC-01-10-009 / CIV-2017-485-300 Ngāti Tamaahuroa and Titahi Hapū- Oeo Pā Trustees;  
 MAC-01-10-019 / CIV-2017-485-282 Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust;  
 MAC-01-10-001 / CIV-2017-485-210 Araukuuku Hapū;  
 MAC-01-10-010 / CIV-2017-485-213 Ngāti Tu;  
 MAC-01-10-013 / CIV-2017-485-212 Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi;  
 MAC-01-10-017 / CIV-2017-485-243 Ngā Hapū o Ngāruahine;  
 MAC-01-10-018 / CIV-2017-485-254 Te Patutokotoko;  
 MAC-01-10-009 / CIV-2017-485-301 Te Awa Tupua and Ngā Hapū me ngā Uri o Te Iwi o Whanganui;  
 CIV-2011-485-797 Ngāti Manuhiakai;  
 CIV-2011-485-803 Okahu Inuawai hapū; and CIV-2011-485-814 Kānihi Umutahi me Ētahi hapū.