

BEFORE AN EXPERT PANEL
IN NEW PLYMOUTH | NGĀMOTU ROHE

UNDER THE	Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“FTAA”)
IN THE MATTER OF	an application by Trans-Tasman Resources Limited under the FTAA
BETWEEN	TRANS-TASMAN RESOURCES LIMITED
	Applicant
AND	THE EXPERT PANEL
	Consent authority

HAPŪ-SPECIFIC COMMENTS OF [REDACTED] FOR NGĀTI TŪ

6 OCTOBER 2025

BLACK LAW	[REDACTED]	Counsel:	[REDACTED]
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MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL:**INTRODUCTION**

1. These comments relate to the application of the Taranaki VTM Project to obtain marine consents under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012.
2. My name is [REDACTED] I am 63 years old and reside in Manaia, South Taranaki.
3. I am the current Chair of the Ngāti Tū Hapū Executive Committee. Ngāti Tū are one of many hapū groups of the Ngāruahine iwi of South Taranaki.

Ngāti Tū Hapū

4. Ngāti Tū hapū are descendants of the early Polynesian voyagers who arrived in Aotearoa around 1350 AD. These people are also remnants of earlier voyagers having arrived in 350 AD.
5. Ngāti Tū hapū are an applicant group for customary marine title and protected customary rights under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011(MACA).
6. It is in this capacity we have been invited by the Panel to comment on the application in question under section 53(3) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.
7. Ngāti Tū are the mana whenua of the areas between Otākeho stream in the North to the Kapuni Stream in the South, from the tihi o Taranaki Maunga to the coast.
8. From these points seaward, Ngāti Tū is the mana moana from the coast to Hawaiki-nui, Hawaiki-roa, Hawaiki-pamaomao and Tawhiti-nui, Tawhiti-roa, Tawhiti-pamaomao.
9. We neither consent to, nor recognise the artificial confines of the coastal marine area, territorial sea or exclusive economic zone to which the New Zealand state claims authority.

10. Ngāti Tū Hapū has four Tauranga Waka in the coastal marine area which are managed as reserves to support Waiokura Marae¹. Those Tauranga Waka are:

- i. Otāmare;
- ii. Motumate
- iii. Waiohata; and
- iv. Ōrangituaapeka.

Ngāti Tū interests

11. Ngāti Tū have fished, collected kaimoana, and navigated our coastal waters for multiple generations.

12. Important taonga species for Ngāti Tū are pāua, kina, pūpū, kōura, tāmure and kahawai. Anadromous and Catadromous species such as tuna and piharau are important taonga species which regularly migrate between the sea and our rivers to complete their life cycles.

13. While these species were able to sustain our Hapū traditionally, we have observed a continued decline in their populations due to persistent over fishing by people from outside our Iwi.

14. A rāhui has been put on our fishing beds to reduce the poor behaviour of non-residents. We are currently working with the other Hapū of Ngāruahine to utilise Fisheries Act provisions to support the rāhui.

15. In 2018, we had eight dead Sperm Whales wash up on Kaupokonui Beach. It was a trying time for our Hapū who worked night and day with the Department of Conservation to deal with the situation. The experience has brought our Hapū closer together and rekindled our intimate relationship to our moana and the many species that inhabit it.

16. The recent interest of Oregon State University has provided an increase in knowledge and understanding of the resident South Taranaki Blue Whale population.

17. We have actively engaged with the University and the Department of Conservation to understand the impacts of climate change on this species.

¹ <https://www.trc.govt.nz/assets/hero-images/Coastal-Plan/Documents/Replacement-Documents/Coastal-Plan-Schedule-6B-Ngaruahine.pdf>

Impacts of the project on Hapū interests

18. Part of the reason for the rāhui and potential closure of fishing areas is to monitor and evaluate the health of our taonga species as kaitiaki.
19. Uncertainty around the impacts of the projects sediment plume will affect our ability to exercise kaitiakitanga. We have not found the outdated reports of the applicant useful and convincing.
20. We are particularly concerned at the impacts the sediment plume and noise generated by the project will have on the Blue Whale population.
21. Ngāti Tū is 'in the dark' when it comes to understanding the potential impacts of the project on the migration paths of our tuna and piharau.
22. As a MACA applicant group, we have had no communication or consultation with the applicant.

Ngāti Tū position on the application

23. We have had time to review the application and the mountain of supporting evidence and have arrived at a position that neither the environmental impacts or economic benefits are well understood by the applicant.
24. It is concerning the applicant has not provided analysis of the projects potential impacts on CO² emissions or completed a Life Cycle Analysis of the project activities from start to end.
25. We note that the Annual Report of the applicants parent company raises serious material uncertainty related to the groups ability to continue as an ongoing concern.²

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https://webservices.weblink.com.au/article.aspx?articleID=xnuVia9vWZ3A42Hf1iMTygwss5wW2DRmpaN+CN31yo%3D&fbclid=IwY2xjawNjiEpleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFqQk5QOWlmYmg1SkIndjQ3AR51ZBq6XNzMQTir5pgUdVE3V5Zqg4qWFJAGi_zkkN2qN7NbxalwX1na2e_hlA_aem_JOi_5FA1WRyd2Fxc-jVrA

26. Ngāti Tū Hapū expresses its full, unconditional support for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui, Te Kaahui o Rauru, and Te Korowai o Ngāruahine in opposing this application in its entirety.
27. Given the lack of clarity provided by the applicant, it would be unwise and remiss of the Panel to proceed with anything other than a precautionary approach regarding this application.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2025

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Chair.


Chair, Ngāti Tū Hapū Executive Committee