



## Section 51(2)(d) Fast-track Approvals Act 2014 Report

### Central and Southern Block Mining Project, FTAA-2512-1153

#### Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) recommends:

- That the archaeological authority is **granted**, subject to conditions, under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTA Act).
- That, if the authorities are granted, Glen Farley is **approved** as the approved person to carry out the archaeological work under the authority.

---

#### Introduction

1. On 26 January 2026, Taharoa Ironsands Limited (the Applicant) lodged a substantive application for Central and Southern Block Mining (the Project) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On 16 February 2026 the substantive application was deemed complete and complied with section 46(2) of the FTA Act. It was deemed to not have any competing applications or existing resource consents under section 47 of the FTA Act on 25 February 2026.
2. As a part of the application, the Applicant has applied for an archaeological authority pursuant to section 44(b) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPT Act). HNZPT is the administering agency for the HNZPT Act under the FTA Act.
3. On 9 March 2026 the Panel Convener issued a Minute directing the EPA to obtain a report prepared by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council, in accordance with section 51(2)(d) of the FTA Act (March Minute).
4. This report is due 6 May 2026.

#### Purpose of the Report

5. In the March Minute, the Panel Convener requested advice on:

*how the weighting of matters set out in the relevant schedules should be approached, having regard to applicable statutory provisions and relevant senior court decisions (s51(1)).*

*if HNZPT and MHC do not agree with, or wish to amplify, the expert and planning assessments lodged in support of the application, they must file a report in accordance with the relevant schedule (s51(2)(c) or s51(2)(d)).*

*HNZPT and MHC may confirm and append advice, including legal advice, previously given in response to directions under section 51 on another project;*

*HNZPT and MHC are to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plans attached to the application, recommending tracked changes (if any).*

6. This Report addresses these matters and makes a recommendation to the Expert Panel regarding the archaeological authority application as part of the Project.

#### The Project

7. The Project seeks to continue existing mineral sand extraction, including land preparation works, constructing a water supply reservoir, extracting ironsand material using dry and wet-mining techniques, processing extracted material, and transporting raw and processed material. The project area is 911 hectares at Taharoa Road, Taharoa, approximately 8 kilometres south of Kawhia and 45 kilometres northwest of Te Kūiti.

#### Documentation received and reviewed

8. This recommendation is based on HNZPT's review of the following documents:
  - (a) Appendix X – Archaeological Authority Application Bundle
  - (b) Clough and Associates Limited, n.d., "Archaeological Authority Application".
  - (c) Clough and Associates Limited, n.d., "Information provided in support of application for approval of person to carry out activity under archaeological authority".
  - (d) Clough and Associates Limited, n.d., "Proposed Archaeological Approval Conditions".
  - (e) Gaylard, D., Farley, G. and J. Low, 2025, "Taharoa Ironsands Central and Southern Blocks: Archaeological Assessment".
  - (f) Farley, G. 2025, "Archaeological Management Plan: Taharoa Ironsands Mine - Central and Southern Blocks".
  - (g) No Author, n.d., "Appendix A: Summary of the tenor of the views expressed on the Archaeological Authority Application".
  - (h) Taharoa Mine Site Health and Safety – Environmental Procedure: Discovery of Human Remains and/or Items of Cultural Significance (TIL, October, 2025)
  - (i) New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Records for R16/52, R16/58, R16/61, R16/88, R16/89, R16/117, R16/150, R16/151, R16/155, R16/327 and R16/572.

#### **Response to March Minute**

##### Matters in clause 3, Schedule 8

9. HNZPT recommends that an archaeological authority be **granted with conditions**, attached as **Appendix A**.

##### Weighting of clause 4, Schedule 8 matters

10. HNZPT has provided advice on this to the Expert Panel in the Delmore application, a copy of that advice is appended to this Report as **Appendix B**. In short, the greatest weight is given to (a) the purpose of the FTA Act; in respect of the matters set out in section 59(1)(a) of the HNZPTA, it is an overall assessment, rather than a hierarchy of matters for consideration.

### Review of Technical Reports

11. HNZPT agrees with the assessment prepared by Doug Gaylard, Glen Farley, and Jen Low, in particular:
- There are 11 recorded archaeological sites within the project area that are known to be intact or not known to be destroyed;
  - There is potential for additional archaeological sites and material to be encountered during the proposed works;
  - The proposed works will modify or destroy the recorded archaeological sites, and there is potential that other sites may be modified or destroyed during the proposed works; and
  - Mitigation takes the form of archaeological monitoring in areas of high archaeological risk as outlined in the Archaeological Management Plan, and archaeological investigation, sampling, and recording of archaeological sites encountered during works.

#### *The Draft Archaeological Management Plan*

12. A management plan is essential to manage the activities pursuant to an archaeological authority, as it outlines procedures for identifying, protecting, managing, and recording archaeological sites during the course of the authority. The information and protocols set out in the management plan assist with ensuring that the modification or destruction of any archaeological sites is carried out in a way that ensures the sites are respected and the information that they contain is recorded in an appropriate manner. As such, every authority must have an appropriate management plan that sets out all of this information, and that plan must be certified by HNZPT prior to any works commencing.
13. There were two relevant documents provided as a part of the application:
- 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)
14. The Discovery Protocol is incorporated by reference into the AMP and the conditions.
15. HNZPT has discussed these documents with the Applicant and with some minor amendments to the Discovery Protocol, HNZPT is satisfied that the AMP can be certified as achieving the purpose set out in [12] and as such, can be recorded in the condition set.
16. The Applicant has provided a track change version of the Discovery Protocol and HNZPT agrees with those amendments and has updated the condition to refer to the date of the Discovery Protocol to April 2026, to reflect the later version.

## **HNZPT Assessment and Recommendation**

17. HNZPT has considered the application against the criteria set out in clause 4, Schedule 8, summarised as follows:

### Section 59(1)(a) HNZPTA

18. The granting of an archaeological authority for this application would be consistent with the matters set out in section 59(1)(a) of the HNZPTA:
19. There is no evidence to suggest that the historical and cultural heritage value of the recorded and any potential subsurface archaeological sites justifies their protection. The application describes how the proposal will avoid known urupā and wāhi tapu areas which will protect and conserve those archaeological sites. The application states this area does not fall under any Statutory Acknowledgement Area and the Applicant has undertaken consultation with iwi/hapū, who have not expressed opposition to the application proposal.
20. HNZPT considers that the agreed conditions for the Authority will effectively manage the identification and recovery of archaeological information within the application site.

### Section 47(1)(a)(ii) and (5) HNZPTA

21. Section 47(1)(a)(ii) and (5) only apply for an authority application made pursuant to section 44(b) of the HNZPTA – a minor effects authority. This is not a minor effects application, and therefore these sections are not relevant.

### Relevant Statement of General Policy

22. The relevant Statement of General Policy is the Tauākī Mātai Whaipara Archaeology Statement included in He Tauākī Kaupapahere Whānui Statements of General Policy dated October 2025.
23. The proposal is consistent with the objectives and policies of the Statement of General Policy, particularly with regard to:
- Policy 1.38: HNZPT does not support development on significant sites, including urupā. The application and archaeological assessment state that the proposal avoids known urupā.
  - Policy 2.4: HNZPT encourages applicants to submit protocols on agreed cultural processes where there may be sites of significance to Maori. The Applicant has discussed the AMP and Discovery Protocol with the Proprietors of Taharoa C Block, and the AMP was provided to tangata whenua groups for their review and feedback.
  - Policy 2.7: HNZPT promotes avoidance of damage and modification of archaeological sites. The Applicant has proposed works that avoid recorded archaeological sites, as described in the application.
  - Policy 2.34: HNZPT requires archaeological authority holders to involve hapū and iwi in the authority process and activities fulfilling the authority conditions, including archaeological excavation and reporting, for an authority that relates to a site of interest to Māori. This requirement will be fulfilled by compliance with the authority conditions as discussed below.

### **Authority conditions**

24. The Applicant provided a set of draft conditions with its application. Following this, HNZPT and the Applicant have worked together to achieve an agreed set of conditions. HNZPT considers this set of conditions will ensure that the archaeological works:
- are undertaken in a culturally appropriate way; and
  - mitigate any adverse effects on the adversely affected archaeological values; and
  - will allow for any information collected to be recorded in a report and accessible to other archaeologists and interested persons; and
  - can be monitored and measured to ensure compliance.
25. HNZPT appreciates the time and effort of the Applicant to discuss and develop this agreed set of conditions. This has resulted in some amendment to the Discovery Protocol, which has now been updated to April 2026, rather than October 2025.
26. The recommended and agreed condition set is attached as **Appendix A**.

### **Section 53 comments**

27. As HNZPT is recommending a grant of this authority and there is an agreed set of conditions, HNZPT does not anticipate further comment on the substantive application pursuant to section 53 of the FTA Act.

### **Section 45 HNZPT Act Approved Person**

28. HNZPT has reviewed the statement made by Glen Farley regarding his qualifications, experience, and cultural and institutional and professional support and resources.
29. HNZPT considers that the information provided demonstrates that Glen Farley satisfies the criteria set out in clause 7(5) of the FTA Act and section 45(2) of the HNZPT Act, being:
- (a) has sufficient skill and competency, is fully capable of ensuring that the proposed activity is carried out to the satisfaction of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, and has access to appropriate institutional and professional support and resources; and*
  - (b) in the case of a site of interest to Māori,—*
    - (i) has the requisite competencies for recognising and respecting Māori values; and*
    - (ii) has access to appropriate cultural support.*
30. Taking all of this into account, HNZPT recommends that Glen Farley is approved as the person nominated to carry out an activity under the authority.

**Signed for and on behalf of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga,**



Dean Whiting  
Chief Executive  
Date: 6 May 2026

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AUTHORITY

### AUTHORITY DETAILS

**Authority Number:** 2026-587

**Determination Date:**

**Duration:** 35 years

**Authority Holder:** Taharoa Ironsands Limited

**Archaeological Sites:** R16/52, R16/58, R16/61, R16/88, R16/89, R16/117, R16/150, R16/151, R16/155, R16/327, and R16/572; and other unrecorded sites

**Location:** Central and Southern Blocks located at Taharoa C Block, Taharoa Road, Taharoa

**S45 Approved Person:** Glen Farley

**Landowner Consent:** Landowner consent has been provided to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) to satisfy clause 6(1) of Schedule 8 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

---

### DETERMINATION

The FTAA Expert Consenting Panel grants an archaeological authority pursuant to section 81 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 and section 48 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 in respect of the archaeological sites described above within the areas specified in the location above, to Taharoa Ironsands Limited for ironsand extraction across the Central and Southern Blocks of the Taharoa Ironsands Mine including land preparations, vegetation clearance, construction of various ponds, and mining operations (archaeological works), subject to the following conditions:

### CONDITIONS OF AUTHORITY

No.	Condition
<b>Before Works</b>	
1	<p><b>Start Work Notification</b></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of any work that may impact upon sites R16/52, R16/58, R16/61, R16/88, R16/89, R16/117, R16/150, R16/151, R16/155, R16/327, and R16/572, the approval holder must ensure that HNZPT and at least one of the kaumātua representatives nominated by The Proprietors of Taharoa C Block Incorporated (nominated kaumātua representatives), are advised of the date when work will begin. This advice must be provided at least 2 working days before work starts.</p>
2	<p><b>Archaeological Management Plan</b></p> <p>The authority must be exercised in accordance with the Archaeological Management Plan (Farley, G. 2025 Archaeological Management Plan: Taharoa Ironsands Mine Central and Southern Blocks, prepared for Taharoa Ironsands Limited) (AMP) dated October 2025.</p>

	<p>The Authority Holder may update the AMP by submitting any amendments in writing to HNZPT for its written approval.</p>
3	<p><b>Site Briefing</b></p> <p>The Authority Holder must ensure that all personnel undertaking works in the vicinity of sites R16/52, R16/58, R16/61, R16/88, R16/89, R16/117, R16/150, R16/151, R16/155, R16/327, and R16/572 are briefed on site by the section 45 Approved Person (who may appoint a person to carry out the briefing on their behalf) prior to any bulk earthworks commencing which have the possibility of encountering archaeological evidence relating to those sites. The briefing shall include how to identify possible archaeological sites during works, the archaeological work required by the conditions of this approval, and operators' responsibilities with regard to notification of the discovery of archaeological evidence to ensure that the approval conditions are complied with.</p>
<b>During Works</b>	
4	<p><b>Monitoring</b></p> <p>Any earthworks that may affect sites R16/52, R16/58, R16/61, R16/88, R16/89, R16/117, R16/150, R16/151, R16/155, R16/327, and R16/572 must be monitored by the section 45 Approved Person (who may appoint a person to carry out monitoring on their behalf)</p>
5	<p><b>Kōiwi Discovery</b></p> <p>If any kōiwi (human remains) are encountered, all works must cease within 10 metres of the discovery. HNZPT, New Zealand Police, and at least one of the nominated kaumātua representatives must be advised immediately.</p> <p>Any steps following must be undertaken in accordance with Guidelines for Kōiwi Tangata/Human Remains (AGS8 2014) and no further work in the area may take place until future actions have been agreed by all parties.</p> <p>Access for the nominated kaumātua representatives shall be enabled in order to undertake tikanga (provided this access is consistent with any site safety requirements), including in accordance with Taharoa Mine Site Health and Safety – Environmental Procedure: Discovery of Human Remains and/or Items of Cultural Significance (TIL, April 2026).</p>
6	<p><b>Discovery Protocol</b></p> <p>Following the discovery of any archaeological materials, and in addition to any tikanga agreed to between the Authority Holder and the nominated kaumātua representatives, the following shall apply:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one of the nominated kaumātua representatives shall be informed if any possible taonga or Māori artefacts are identified to enable appropriate tikanga to be undertaken, so long as all statutory requirements under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 and the Protected Objects Act 1975 are met; and</li> <li>• The nominated kaumātua representatives who attend a discovery shall be provided with a copy of any reports completed as a result of the archaeological work associated with this authority and be given an opportunity to discuss it with the section 45 Approved Person if required.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Investigation</b></p> <p>Any archaeological evidence encountered during the exercise of this authority must be investigated, recorded and analysed in accordance with accepted archaeological practice and the procedures in the AMP.</p> <p>HNZPT and least one of the nominated kaumātua representatives must be notified of any investigation at least 48 hours prior to the investigation occurring.</p>
8	<p><b>Annual Reporting</b></p> <p>From the date of issue of this authority, the Authority Holder must submit an annual written report containing a summary of the progress of the activity and any archaeological findings to HNZPT and the nominated kaumātua representatives.</p>
<b>After Works</b>	
9	<p><b>Work Completion Notification</b></p> <p>The Authority Holder must ensure that HNZPT and at least one of the kaumātua representatives are advised of the completion of the on-site archaeological work, within 5 working days of completion.</p>
10	<p><b>Completion of Archaeological Siteworks</b></p> <p>Within 20 working days of the completion of the on-site archaeological work associated with this approval, the Authority Holder shall ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An interim report following the Archaeological Report Guideline (AGS12 2023) is submitted to HNZPT for inclusion in the HNZPT Archaeological Reports Digital Library; and</li> <li>• Site record forms are updated or submitted to the NZAA Site Recording Scheme.</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>Archaeological Records</b></p> <p>Within 12 months of the completion of the on-site archaeological work, the Authority Holder shall ensure that a final report, completed to the satisfaction of HNZPT following the</p>

---

Archaeological Report Guideline (AGS12 2023), is submitted to HNZPT for inclusion in the HNZPT Taonga Archaeological Reports Digital Library. Digital copies of the final report must also be sent to the NZAA Central File keeper and the nominated kaumātua representatives.

---



## Appendix B: Weighting of matters set out in Schedule 8, Clause 4 of the FTA Act

Re: Delmore [FTAA-2502-1015] Request for advice dated 11 April 2025

1. You have asked Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (Heritage New Zealand) for advice regarding the following:
  - ii. the weighting of matters outlined in Schedule 8, clause 4 of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTA Act), having regard to senior court decisions; and
  - iii. agreement or otherwise in respect of the statutory summary provided by Barker & Associates Ltd (Barker Report).

### Weighting of matters outlined in Schedule 8, Clause 4 of the FTA Act

2. Schedule 8, clause 4 states:

*For the purposes of [section 81](#), when considering an application for an archaeological authority, including conditions in accordance with [clause 5](#), the panel must take into account, giving the greatest weight to paragraph (a),—*

- (a) the purpose of this Act; and*
- (b) the matters set out in [section 59\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the HNZPT Act<sup>1</sup>; and*
- (c) the matters set out in [section 47\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) and \(5\)](#) of the HNZPT Act; and*
- (d) a relevant statement of general policy confirmed or adopted under the HNZPT Act.*

3. The wording of the clause itself makes it clear that the Panel gives the greatest weight is given to (a) the purpose of the FTA Act. Of the other matters:

#### Section 59 matters

4. There is no hierarchy between the matters set out in section 59(1)(a), rather it is an overall assessment. This is evident in the assessment carried out by Heritage New Zealand that will be provided to the Panel with a recommendation.

#### Section 47(1)(a)(ii) and (5)

5. These sections only apply for an authority application made pursuant to section 44(b) of the HNZPTA – a minor effects authority.
6. The Delmore application is not for an authority pursuant to section 44(b), so the matters in Schedule 8, clause 4(c) are not relevant considerations for this application.

#### Statement of General Policy

7. The relevant Statement of General Policy is *The Administration of the Archaeological Provisions under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014*, dated 29 October 2015.

---

<sup>1</sup> Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

8. Note, this is currently under review and we anticipate a new Statement of General Policy will be in place from October 2025.

#### **Statutory Summary in Barker Report**

9. We have reviewed section 13.3<sup>2</sup> and section 14.5<sup>3</sup> of the Barker Report that set out the statutory requirements in relation to an approval under the HNZPT Act.
10. Section 13.3 sets out relevant information in relation to obtaining an approval pursuant to the HNZPT Act. We agree with the description of clauses 3, 4, and 5 of the FTA Act.
11. Section 14.5 uses subheadings to assess the matters set out in Schedule 8, clause 4 of the FTA Act that the Panel is to have regard to.
12. We agree that the matters listed are those contained in Schedule 8, clause 4. Of these, sections 47(a)(ii) and (5) HNZPT Act are not relevant considerations for this matter, as this is not an application made pursuant to section 44(b) HNZPT Act – minor works authority.
13. The s51 Report prepared by Heritage New Zealand will comment on each of these sections and give an assessment of same before reaching an overall recommendation for the authority application.

---

<sup>2</sup> Titled “Approvals Relating to HNZPT 2014 – Schedule 8”

<sup>3</sup> Titled “Heritage Authority Approval Sought: Sections 59(1)(a) and 47(1)(a)(ii) and (5) of the HNZPT and Relevant Statement of General Policy”