
MINUTE 14 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Hui at Aaruka Marae
Central and Southern Block Mining Project [FTAA-2512-1153]

(3 June 2026)

- [1] The purpose of this Minute is to briefly respond to the Memorandum of Counsel for the Applicant dated 28 May 2026.¹
- [2] The Panel firstly records that it has read and considered the content of this memorandum.
- [3] Those aspects addressing suspension of the application are noted.
- [4] Those aspects regarding the forthcoming hui largely traverse matters that were raised by the applicant in its Memorandum of 8 May 2026, as addressed in the Panel's Minute 9,² including to ensure (as requested by the Applicant) that Taharoa C was directly consulted by Mr Williams regarding arrangements for the hui (timing, venue, protocols /tikanga).
- [5] The Panel had itself just been advised by Mr Williams that the 8 June date for the hui had been agreed by the mana whenua parties (including Taharoa C) on 22 May, when the Applicant's suspension request was received. Minute 11 records the Panel's intention to proceed with the hui on that date despite granting the Applicant's requested suspension. The Panel accepts that TIL had not to that point been directly consulted on the 8 June date, but events (including the need to respond to the suspension application) effectively superseded that step being taken by the Panel prior to issuing Minute 11.
- [6] The Panel makes the following additional points for completeness and avoidance of doubt:
 - (a) The reasons for the hui are as recorded in the Panel Convenor's Minute of 27 March 2026,³ along with this Panel's Minute 1.⁴ No protest about the hui was

¹ [Memorandum of Counsel on behalf of Taharoa Ironsands Limited dated 28 May 2026](#)

² It is assumed that the references to Minute 7 in Counsel for the Applicant's memorandum are in error, notably at paragraph 9 and 11(c).

³ Paragraphs 9(c) and 17(d).

⁴ Paragraph 8(d).

raised by the Applicant at that time, including at the Overview Conference.

- (b) The Panel confirmed in Minute 9 that the Applicant's requested opportunity to respond would be provided for, as it is within the draft hui agenda set out in the Applicant's memorandum of 28 May 2026.
 - (c) The granting of the applicant's requested suspension ensures the Applicant's technical consultant team have adequate time to respond to the s 53 comments, while enabling other representatives of the Applicant to attend this one-day event. The originally signalled hui date and timing (first week of June, responses to comments due 27 May 2026) would have been more challenging for the Applicant. The Panel notes (and adopts) paragraph [7] of Minute 9 in this respect.
- [7] In summary, the Panel considers the hui to be both an efficient process to ensure an informed decision on matters raised by the Substantive Application and the comments received, and substantively and procedurally fair to all parties including the Applicant.
- [8] The hui will proceed as previously directed, with the agenda being as attached to this Minute.
- [9] The Applicant remains welcome (and invited) to attend. A full recording (but not transcript) will be made available should the Applicant prefer to make any response in writing after completion of the hui.



Dave Serjeant
Central and Southern Block Mining Project Expert Panel Chair

Agenda

10.00am - Poowhiri / Whakatau

10.30am - Morning Tea

11.00am

Panel Welcome and Overview of the Day

- Introduction of Panel members
- Purpose of the hui
- Overview of the Fast-track Approvals process
- Decision-making framework and matters the Panel must consider
- Guidance on the types of koorero that may assist the Panel
- Acknowledgement of the marae, whaanau, hapuu and iwi for hosting the Panel

11.20am

Facilitated Session

- Overview of speaking order and process
- Julian Williams, Ngaati Makirangi, Waikato (Facilitator)

11.25am

Iwi and Governance Perspectives

- Waikato-Tainui Representative
- Te Nehenehenui Representative
- Taharoa C Block Incorporated

12.30pm - Lunch

1.30pm - Whaanau, Hapuu and Marae Koorero

Te Kooraha Marae

- Taituwha King
- Fleur Passau (supporting kōrero)

Te Ruunanga o Ngaati Mahanga ki Kawhia

- John Kanawa
- Verna Tuteao

Aaruka Marae

- Melaina Huaki

Taharoa Lakes Trust

- Ngahuia Herangi
- Nevada Huaki

Te Wetini Trust

- Taina Malone

Marokopa Marae

- Natasha Willison

4.30pm – 5.00pm (indicative) - Applicant Reply (provisional)

Closing Reflections

- Panel reflections and acknowledgements
- Final comments from hosts
- Karakia Whakamutunga

Please note that timings are indicative only and may be adjusted to allow sufficient time for kōrero and discussion throughout the day.