

**BEFORE THE EXPERT PANEL**

**FTAA 2511 1150**

**UNDER THE**

**FAST TRACK APPROVALS ACT 2024 (FTAA or Act)**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

a substantive application by McCallum Bros Limited for  
the Te Ākau Bream Bay Sand Extraction Project located  
at Paepae Atua, Northland

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**SECOND STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF ARI WALKER  
ON BEHALF OF THE POUPŪ E ŪA O TIAKIRIRIKI KUPATRU  
(TE PARAHAKI)**

**dated 17 August 2026**

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Richard Allen Law Ltd  
Solicitor Acting: Richard Allen

[REDACTED]

Counsel  
Magdalene Chambers  
Rob Enright

[REDACTED]

Marti Enright

[REDACTED]

Ka Tukua Te Tira Mate

Ki Tua o Paerau

Ka Noho Te Tira ora

Ki te Ao Turoa

Ka Tu Te Tira o Te Parawhau

### **Tēnā koe**

E mihi kau ana ki a koutou i raro i te maru o ngā manaakitanga o te Runga Rawa. Ko au tēnei ko Pari Walker, he kaumātua nō Te Parawhau, e tuku atu ana i taku taunakitanga

He honore nui ki ahau

1 I currently hold the appointment of the Chairperson for Te Pouwhenua o Tiakiriri Kukupa Trust (**the Trust**). I am authorised to provide this evidence on behalf of the Trust.

2 This is my second statement of evidence to the Expert Panel considering the fast-track application by McCallum Bros Limited in connection with the proposed project for sand extraction from Paepae Atua Bream Bay.

3 I have outlined below my response to matters raised by Minute 8, issued by the Panel. This related to the so-called “status” of tangata whenua and participants to this process. We consider this needs to be answered under our tikanga, and in the context of our relationships with Paepae Atua, where the proposal will (if approved) take place.

### **Rangatiratanga**

4 Our starting point is that we as a hapū, and our Trust as the representative body of Te Parawhau ki Tai, are entitled to make decisions about activity within our rohe that are in the best interests of our hapū without adverse influence or interference from other parties as the Trust has recently sustained both privately and publicly. For Te Parawhau ki Tai, this is rangatiratanga in action.

5 I attach as **Appendix A** a copy of the letter I sent to the Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board as chairperson on behalf of the Trust

dated 17 June 2026 that addresses issues of interference and sets out our position. The letter speaks for itself.

### **Mahi Whakaora – and the benefits of this proposal**

6           After careful consideration and detailed elaboration and negotiation with the applicant, we as a Trust have decided there are significant benefits to te Taiao, and economic and social benefits and opportunities flowing to our hapū, from providing our conditional support to the applicant. These are benefits under section 6(e) RMA as they relate to our relationships, tikanga, and values with our lands, waters, sites, and taonga.

7           Our assessment is that the benefits are real. So too are the duties imposed on the Applicant, to make sure these benefits are realised. We will be there to make sure the obligations are delivered on by the Applicant.

8           The benefits accrue to our hapū in our rohe. They are a “regional” benefit in Northland, not Auckland. They make a significant difference to the future of our hapū and our ability to maintain and enhance the mauri of Paepae Atua over the 35 year consent term.

9           The decision that we have made has not been arrived at lightly. It is a significant decision that the trustees considered carefully over a lengthy period of time, balancing the benefits for our hapū and the enhancement of our ability to preserve Te Taiao against joining other parties in opposing the application.

10          We have discussed the matter with some of our kaumatua and they have provided their support to us. We are aware that there continues to be aggressive opposition. We encourage their right to speak but confirm that the Trust is the representative body entitled to make our decision in the best interest of our hapū.

### **Our support is conditional**

11          Our support is conditional on the applicant adopting, implementing and giving effect to a full suite of mahi whakaora that will be determined by the Trust and are outlined in our Cultural Impact Assessment. This has been agreed with the Applicant. Te Parawhau

monitors will be trained, funded and engaged to ensure that the applicant meets its promises to protect Te Taiao for the full consent term.

**Our strength of relationship with the area affected the proposal is based on whakapapa**

12 Our relationship with the area affected by the proposal is based on our whakapapa tātai which is unbroken and immutable. It is embedded in knowledge of our atua and kōrero tuku iho.

13 In my earlier statement of evidence dated 26 May 2026 in paragraph [29] I stated that:

“Te Parawhau ki Tai has the strongest connection under tikanga with the MBL site as it sits within our rohe, ancestral lands, waters, wāhi tapu and taonga. It forms part of Poupouwhenua, as explained by Riripeti (Mira) Norris in her evidence also being filed for the Trust. We see our support for the MBL proposal as an exercise in our rangatiratanga, as we are entitled to do.”

14 I want to add to this statement by acknowledging that Patuharakeke and Ngatiwai have connections with the “MBL site” through their own whakapapa tātai. These connections are not stronger than Te Parawhau ki Tai’s connections. It is up to them to prove these connections and show whether their connections prove interests that are at least as strong as Te Parawhau ki Tai. We rely on our whakapapa. This is our tikanga. We do not question the whakapapa of others. It is for them to say. We have acknowledged that Patuharakeke are our whaunanga through whakapapa.

**Tikanga and cultural hearing**

15 In response to your Minute 8, the Panel must continue to ensure that “tikanga is at the front of its decision-making”.<sup>1</sup> To-date we have seen Patuharakeke’s tikanga preferred via the holding of the pōwhiri at Takahiwaē Marae, where we were not invited and were not told of the pōwhiri. This remains of significant concern to us.

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<sup>1</sup> Minute #8 dated 18 May 2026, para [9].

16 I note the “strong preference” and “strong desire”<sup>2</sup> the Panel has expressed in Minute 8 to raise cultural effects on a kanohi ki te kanohi basis. I tautoko Mira Norris in her second statement of evidence that Takahiwai Marae is no longer an appropriate venue for the hearing of any cultural issues/effects matters. This is also our marae and we will not be treated as manuhiri. Any hearing should be convened in Whangārei.

17 We do not support hearings held in secret with individual participants as was suggested may be an option in your Minute 12.<sup>3</sup> If such hearings must take place, then we should all be in the same room and be entitled to hear each other’s opinions, have them recorded and be able to respond to them.

**Dated this 1 August 2026**



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**Pari Walker (Trustee, Chairperson)**

## **Appendix A**

letter sent by me as Chairperson to the Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board on behalf of the Trust dated 17 June 2026

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<sup>2</sup> Minute #8, paras [17] and [20].

<sup>3</sup> Minute #12 dated 11 June 2026, para [6](c).