

**BEFORE AN EXPERT PANEL
IN NEW PLYMOUTH NGĀMOTU ROHE**

UNDER THE

Fast-track approvals Act 2024(“FTAA”)

IN THE MATTER OF

an application by the Trans-Tasman Resources Limited under the FTAA

BETWEEN

TRANS-TASMAN RESOURCES LIMITED
Applicant

AND

THE EXPERT PANEL
Consent Authority

COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF KANIHI UMUTAHİ ME ĒTEHI ATU HAPŪ

Dated this 6th day of October 2025



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Counsel Acting: [REDACTED]

MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL:**INTRODUCTION**

1. These “comments” are made on behalf of Kanihi Umutahi me ētehi atu hapū in respect of the application by Trans-Tasman Resources Limited for a marine consent under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA).
2. Kanihi Umutahi me ētehi atu is a hapū of Ngāruahine and has been invited to comment as they have made an application for recognition of their customary interests in the takutai moana in this rohe, under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011.
3. Kanihi Umutahi me ētehi atu hapū have filed a joint comment alongside other hapu of Ngāruahine that are Applicants under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011. The intent of this submission is to clarify who Kanihi Umutahi me ētehi atu hapū are and provide a hapu statement on their position.

KANIHI UMUTAHİ ME ĒTEHI ATU HAPŪ POSITION

4. Kanihi Umutahi me ētehi atu is a hapū of Ngāruahine iwi, based in South Taranaki. The rohe of Ngāruahine is the area bounded by the mouth of the Taungatara Stream to the tip of Taranaki Maunga, then to Tariki and following the Whakaahurangi track to Araukukuu, then following the Waihi Stream to its mouth and from there back northwards along the coast to the mouth of the Taungatara Stream, and includes the seabed and continental shelf adjacent to that area without seaward boundary.

Ko Te Rangatapu te Takutaimoana

Ko Te Rangatapu ko Te Kawau nga Tauranga Waka

Ko Waingongoro te Awa

Ko Umutahi raua ko Te Rua o Te Moko nga Whenua
Ko Kanihi te tangata

5. The descendants of the two hapū Kanihi and Ōkahu are linked by common ancestry. Puawhato is a warrior chief and tupuna of the Kanihi hapu. His pa called Tau te One was situated on the Waingongoro River, just down from the Okahutiti Pa. His sister was HInekoropanga of Okahutiti Pa. This tupuna kuia played a major role in the battle between Nga Mahanga tribe and her people of Okahu. She married Tuhaarea the tupuna of Ngati Tu.
6. Ōkahu, Kanihi and Ngāti Tu all have their own hapū boundaries. Kanihi hapu can be found on both the western and eastern banks of the Waingongoro River. The ancient Kanihi Pa was situated on the eastern bank of the Waingongoro River, on the block of land known as Te Rua o te Moko.
7. Kanihi Umutahi has a fundamental and enduring relationship with the moana and its many taonga species. Their identity, wellbeing, and obligations as kaitiaki are grounded in the health of the marine environment.
8. Kanihi Umutahi whānau have fished and gathered kai moana from these waters for generations. We continue to rely on the moana for sustenance, cultural practice, spiritual wellbeing, and intergenerational transmission of mātauranga.
9. Kanihi Umutahi uphold tikanga-based management practices such as rāhui, karakia, and seasonal restrictions to maintain balance between their needs and the mauri of Tangaroa's domain. Through these practices, Kanihi Umutahi honour their atua Tangaroa, Hinemoana, Kiwa, Punga, and Tinirau who continue to guide them in their role as kaitiaki.

10. The moana and its taonga are inseparable from Kanihi Umutahi whakapapa and identity. Following the raupatu and loss of our lands, the moana became an even more vital source of wellbeing and sustenance. Kanihi Umutahi relationship with it is not one of ownership or resource use, but of responsibility, reciprocity, and whakapapa connection.
11. Kanihi Umutahi were not consulted on this application. They have not been approached to provide their mātauranga, nor to identify their areas of particular significance or concern. The absence of genuine engagement demonstrates a lack of recognition for their mana moana and kaitiakitanga.
12. The reports and assessments provided by the applicant are outdated and do not account for Kanihi Umutahi interests, values, or tikanga. The assessment of environmental effects is incomplete and fails to include any cultural impact assessment.
13. Kanihi Umutahi are particularly concerned about:
 - (a) Sediment plumes and turbidity affecting benthic habitats, spawning grounds, and feeding areas for our taonga species;
 - (b) Underwater noise and vibration impacts on marine mammals, particularly tohorā and kekeno;
 - (c) Potential cumulative effects on migratory pathways and breeding patterns; and
 - (d) The unknown long-term effects of heavy metal and contaminant release into the moana.
14. The application also fails to adequately assess greenhouse gas emissions associated with the proposed mining, transport, and processing activities. These emissions will contribute to climate change, which is already altering currents, temperatures, and ecosystems across Kanihi Umutahi rohe moana.

15. Kanihi Umutahi tikanga includes the imposition of rāhui when species or environments are under stress. The application fails to recognise or provide for their ability to exercise rāhui or other kaitiaki functions should adverse effects arise.
16. The proposal therefore undermines Kanihi Umutahi rights and responsibilities as kaitiaki and Kanihi Umutahi relationship with Tangaroa, as guaranteed under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and recognised in domestic and international law.

CONCLUSION

17. Kanihi Umutahi opposes this application. They do so in the protection of their taonga, their whakapapa, and their responsibilities as kaitiaki. Kanihi Umutahi stand in full support of the opposition expressed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui, Te Kāhui o Rauru and Te Korowai o Ngāruahine. Kanihi Umutahi seeks that this application be declined.

Dated this 6th day of October 2025





Counsel for Kanihi Umutahi me ētehi atu hapū