



## Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Treaty settlements and other obligations (Section 18) report

### Project Name: FTAA-2512-1157 State Highway 1 North Canterbury—Woodend Bypass Project (Belfast to Pegasus)

<b>To:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Panel Convener, Jane Borthwick	25 February 2026

Number of attachments: 3	Attachments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024</li><li>2. Project location maps</li><li>3. List of relevant Māori groups</li></ol>
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#### Ministry for the Environment contacts:

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 <sup>st</sup> contact
Principal Author	Julian Jackson		
Acting Manager, Fast-track Operations	Max Gander-Cooper	██████████	✓
General Manager	Ilana Miller	██████████	

#### Key points

1. As required by section 49 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), the Ministry for the Environment (on behalf of the Secretary for the Environment) has prepared this report on Treaty settlements and other obligations (section 18 of the Act) in relation to the substantive application FTAA-2512-1157 State Highway 1 North Canterbury—Woodend Bypass Project (Belfast to Pegasus).
2. The applicant, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), proposes to extend the State Highway 1 (SH1) Christchurch Northern Corridor between Belfast and Pegasus by upgrading four kilometres of the existing SH1 and constructing a new seven-kilometre bypass of Woodend township. NZTA is seeking a range of resource consents, and an alteration to the boundaries and conditions of the existing Project Designation D058A, under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Approvals are also being sought under the Wildlife Act 1953, Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. The project area does not include the marine and coastal area.
3. Section 18(2) of the Act requires that the report provide a list of relevant Māori groups, including relevant iwi authorities and Treaty settlement entities. Two of those groups must be invited by the panel to comment on a substantive application under section 53(2) of the Act.
4. We have identified Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga as relevant Treaty settlement entities, and Whitiara Centre Limited (owned by Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga), and the owners of Part Te Wera Māori Reserve 873 Block (S.O. Plan 13785) and Lot 3 (DP 345904), 171 Gladstone Road, Woodend, as other Māori groups with relevant interests in the application.

5. The relevant Treaty settlement is the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. No other obligations (such as Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements) have been identified under section 18(2) as relevant to the project area.
6. In its acknowledgements and apology to Ngāi Tahu, the Crown recognised its failures to fulfil its Treaty obligations and commits to a new age of co-operation with Ngāi Tahu. The Crown also recognised Ngāi Tahu as holding rangatiratanga and mana within the Takiwā of Ngāi Tahu Whānui. We have not identified any other principles and provisions of the Treaty settlement, or other obligations, which may be directly relevant to this application. Accordingly, we have not identified any documents the panel must give the same or equivalent effect to, or procedural requirements the panel must comply with, under section 82 and clause 5 of schedule 3 to the Act.

## Signature

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Ilana Miller  
**General Manager – Investment Strategy & Operations**

## Introduction

7. For a substantive application that relates to a listed project, under section 49 of the Act, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) must request a report from the responsible agency (Secretary for the Environment) that is prepared in accordance with sections 18(2) and 18(3)(a) of the Act (but does not contain the matters in section 18(2)(l) and (m)).
8. The information which must be provided in this report includes:
  - a. relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 (MACA), and other Māori groups with interests in the project area; and
  - b. relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements.
9. This report is structured accordingly. We have provided a list of the relevant provisions of section 18 at **Attachment 1**.

## Proposed project

10. The applicant, NZTA, proposes to extend the State Highway 1 (SH1) Christchurch Northern Corridor between Belfast and Pegasus, commencing from approximately 600 metres south of the Kaiapoi River Bridge and ending approximately 700 metres north of the Pegasus/Ravenwood intersection. The project spans a linear length of approximately 11 kilometres (km), including upgrades to approximately four km of the existing SH1 and a new approximately seven km bypass of Woodend township. The project may include the construction new bridges for SH1 and local roads, strengthening the SH1 Kaiapoi River bridge, new and upgraded carriageways of four lanes on SH1, and a new interchange and a grade separated intersection on SH1, as well as other works.
11. The applicant indicates that the project area is located within an area of concentrated culturally significant sites known to Ngāi Tūāhuriri as Ngā Tūranga Tūpuna, extending from Rakahuri / Lower Ashley River to Kaiapoi. Ngā Tūranga Tūpuna encompasses Kaiapoi Māori Reserve lands, culturally important waterways, sites of ancestral pā, kāinga, urupā and other wāhi tapu (including 'silent files'), which reflect the continuous occupation of this land by Ngāi Tūhaitara, Ngāti Rakiāmoa and Ngāi Tūāhuriri for more than 47 generations, and the connections between these places.
12. The project encroaches over part of Te Wera Māori Reserve 873 Block, which was granted to Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri people during the 1840s as part of the Kemp's Deed purchase of the South Island. Part Te Wera Reserve 873 Block is already incorporated into Designation D053A through acquisition for purposes of the Christchurch Northern Motorway in 1984 under section 235 of the Public Works Act 1981. NZTA also had an unconditional agreement with the landowners of Lot 3 Deposited Plan 345904 at 171 Gladstone Road, Woodend, to acquire part of this Māori freehold land under the Public Work Act 1981, which settled on 6 October 2025.
13. The applicant seeks resource consents under the Act that would otherwise be sought under the RMA for vegetation clearance, soil disturbance, earthworks, taking, use, damming, diversion, or discharge of surface water and groundwater, works and structures in riverbed, riverbed reclamation, discharge contaminants to land, water and air, managing contaminants in soil, activities in relation to wetland setbacks, and other matters.
14. Additionally, NZTA is seeking an alteration to the boundaries and conditions of the existing Project Designation D058A (New Zealand Transport Agency Woodend Bypass, Portion of State Highway 1 East Woodend, Pegasus and Kaiapoi) in the Waimakariri District Plan under section 181 of the RMA. The purpose of the alteration is to extend the footprint of

D058A to accommodate an amended intersection design, construction support area, and wetland offset.

15. The applicant is also seeking a wildlife approval under the Wildlife Act 1953, a complex freshwater fisheries activity approval under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, and archaeological authorities under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
16. We have provided a location map at **Attachment 2**.

### Relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, and other Māori groups

17. We note that some entities identified below may be included in more than one category. We have included a composite list of all groups at **Attachment 3**.<sup>1</sup>

#### Iwi authorities

18. Under section 4(2) of the Act, 'iwi authority' has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the RMA:

*the authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so.*

19. We consider the following groups to be the relevant iwi authorities for the project area:
  - a. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, representing Ngāi Tahu.

#### Treaty settlement entities

20. Under section 4(1) of the Act, "Treaty settlement entity" means any of the following:

*(a) a post-settlement governance entity (PSGE):*

*(b) a board, trust, committee, authority, or other body, incorporated or unincorporated, that is recognised in or established under any Treaty settlement Act:*

*(c) an entity or a person that is authorised by a Treaty settlement Act to act for a natural resource feature with legal personhood:*

*(d) Te Ohu Kai Moana or a mandated iwi organisation (as those terms are defined in section 5(1) of the Maori Fisheries Act 2004):*

*(e) an iwi aquaculture organisation (as defined in section 4 of the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004).*

21. Under the Act, a PSGE:

*(a) means a body corporate or the trustees of a trust established, for the purpose of receiving redress in the Treaty settlement of a claimant group,—*

*(i) by that group; or*

*(ii) by or under an enactment or order of a court; and*

*(b) includes—*

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<sup>1</sup> These are the contact details we could locate in the time available, and in some cases they will be the generic email address for the entity.

- (i) an entity established to represent a collective or combination of claimant groups; and*
- (ii) an entity controlled by an entity referred to in paragraph (a); and*
- (iii) an entity controlled by a hapū to which redress has been transferred by an entity referred to in paragraph (a).*

22. In keeping with the procedural principles outlined at section 10 of the Act, we only identify those PSGEs which are specified in the relevant Treaty settlement Act or Treaty settlement deed.<sup>2</sup>

23. We have identified the following relevant Treaty settlement entities for this project area:

- a. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, PSGE for the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998; and
- b. Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, representing Ngāi Tūāhuriri, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

### **Groups mandated to negotiate Treaty settlements**

24. There are no groups which have recognised mandates to negotiate a Treaty settlement over an area which may include the project area. All historical claims under te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi have been settled in respect of the project area.

### **Takutai Moana groups and ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou**

25. The project area does not include the common marine and coastal area, and accordingly there are no relevant applicant groups under MACA, and no court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.

26. The project area is not within ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (as set out in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019).

### **Iwi or hapū whose practices are recognised under the Fisheries Act 1996 through regulation or bylaws**

27. The project area does not include a taiāpure-local fisheries area or mātaimai reserve. Under the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999, made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996, the project area is within the South Island fisheries waters. However, to date no notice has been issued under those regulations to establish a customary food gathering area/rohe moana that would include the project area.

### **Owners of identified Māori land where electricity infrastructure or land transport infrastructure is proposed**

28. Section 39 of the Act provides that before a substantive application is lodged for a listed project or a referred project, the Minister may determine under section 23 or 24 that, for the purposes of the project, an activity described in section 5(1)(a) is not an ineligible activity if it:

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<sup>2</sup> Should a panel be made aware of a Treaty settlement entity established after the Treaty settlement Act is enacted (e.g. on the advice of a PSGE), then there would appear to be nothing to prevent the panel from inviting that entity to comment on the application under section 53(2)(c) of the Act.

- a. is the construction of electricity lines or land transport infrastructure by (or to be operated by) a network utility operator that is a requiring authority; and
  - b. would occur on identified Māori land that is Māori freehold land or General land owned by Māori that was previously Māori freehold land.
29. This project does not involve an activity described in section 23(1) (i.e. including both (a) and (b)) of the Act. As noted above, Part Te Wera Māori Reserve 873 Block, and part of Lot 3 Deposited Plan 345904, 171 Gladstone Road, Woodend, were incorporated into the Project Designation D058A under the Public Works Act 1981.

### **Iwi authorities and groups representing hapū who are party to relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements**

30. If the project area is within the boundaries of either a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreement, and the application includes a proposed RMA approval described in section 42(4)(a) to (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance, or designation), we are required to identify the relevant iwi authority/group that represent hapū that are parties to these arrangements.
31. We have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area, and accordingly there are no parties to these arrangements to identify.

### **Any other Māori groups with relevant interests**

32. In addition to the groups above, we have also identified the following Māori groups which may have relevant interests in the project area:
- a. Whitiora Centre Limited, owned by Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga and representing it on environmental and other matters;
  - b. the owners of Part Te Wera Māori Reserve 873 Block, S.O. Plan 13785; and
  - c. the owners of Lot 3 Deposited Plan 345904, 171 Gladstone Road, Woodend.

## **Relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements**

### **Treaty settlements**

33. Under section 4(1) of the Act, a Treaty settlement includes both a Treaty settlement Act and a Treaty settlement deed which is signed by both the Crown and representatives of a group of Māori.
34. The following Treaty settlements relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area:
- a. Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

### **Relevant principles and provisions**

35. Section 7 of the Act requires all persons exercising powers and functions under the Act to act in a manner consistent with Treaty settlements. The relevant principles and provisions for each of these settlements are set out below.

### *Crown acknowledgements and apologies*

36. As part of the Ngāi Tahu Treaty settlement, the Crown apologised to Ngāi Tahu for its past failures to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana over the South Island lands within its boundaries, and, in fulfilment of its Treaty obligations, the Crown states that it recognises Ngāi Tahu as the tāngata whenua of, and as holding rangatiratanga within, the takiwā of Ngāi Tahu whānui.
37. Respect for Ngāi Tahu views on resource management matters and enabling effective involvement of Ngāi Tahu as a Treaty partner in resource management decision-making within the takiwā are important ways in which the Crown can give ongoing effect to these acknowledgements and uphold its relationship with Ngāi Tahu.
38. Under section 53(2)(c) of the Act, the panel must direct the EPA to invite written comments on a substantive application from any relevant Treaty settlement entities including, to avoid doubt, an entity that has an interest under a Treaty settlement (or an entity operating in a collective arrangement provided for under a Treaty settlement) within the area to which the application relates. Those invited to comment, including relevant Treaty settlement entities, will be provided access to the application information.
39. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga have been identified earlier in this report as relevant Treaty settlement entities to be invited for comment by the panel under section 53(2)(c) of the Act. The scope of section 53(3) of the Act also enables the panel to invite Whitiora Centre Limited to comment on the application, although they may respond on behalf of Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga. The panel also has scope to invite the landowners included as other relevant Māori groups above.

### *Taonga species*

40. The Crown has also acknowledged the special association of Ngāi Tahu with certain taonga species of birds, plants and animals. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 contains several other provisions relating to taonga species, including a requirement that the Minister of Conservation consult with, and have particular regard to, the views of, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu when making policy decisions concerning the protection, management, or conservation of a taonga species.
41. It is possible that birds and plants which are included amongst the taonga species, such as Kāmana / Great crested grebe (Threatened – nationally vulnerable), Tarāpuka / Black-billed gull (At risk – declining), and Kūaka / Bar-tailed godwit (At risk – declining), may be present in the project area at times.
42. We note that the applicant is seeking a wildlife approval to capture and relocate lizards from habitat in the project area, including incidental killing, and to undertake post-release monitoring in lizard relocation sites for a period of 20 years. However, no lizards are named amongst the taonga species listed in the Ngāi Tahu settlement.
43. Although the settlement provisions regarding taonga species do not place any procedural obligations on the applicant or panel in relation to the approvals being sought by the applicant, the redress illustrates the importance of these species to Ngāi Tahu.

### *Conservation protocol*

44. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 also provides for the Minister of Conservation to issue a protocol which sets out how the Department of Conservation (DOC) will exercise its functions, powers, and duties in relation to specified matters within the Ngāi Tahu claim area, and how DOC will interact with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and provide for their input into DOC's decision-making process.

45. While the current version of the protocol which covers the project area provides for engagement with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu on certain matters,<sup>3</sup> in general it does not address the types of conservation-related approvals sought by the applicant (i.e. Wildlife Act 1953 approvals).
46. Ultimately, iwi and hapū, including papatipu rūnanga, are likely to have cultural associations with ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga beyond what is specifically identified in a Treaty settlement or other arrangements. Local tangata whenua and their representatives would be best placed to advise on such matters in the first instance.
47. While we have not identified Treaty settlement redress which is directly relevant, we note the application involves significant Crown powers in relation to Māori land, and the project area is in an area of high significance to Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri, centred in nearby Tuahiwi, and for Ngāi Tahu generally, including the former Kaiapoi Pā and other culturally important sites nearby.

### **Customary Marine Title/Protected Customary Rights**

48. As noted above, the project area is not within a customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or within or adjacent to ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou.

### **Taiāpure-local fisheries/mātaimai reserves/areas subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996**

49. As noted above, the project area does not include a taiāpure-local fishery or mātaimai reserve, but it is within the South Island fisheries waters for the purposes of the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999, made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996. To date no notice has been issued under those regulations to establish a customary food gathering area/rohe moana that would include the project area. If a notice is issued, it provides for tangata whenua to take fisheries resources and manage customary fishing within the rohe moana.

### **Mana Whakahono ā Rohe/Joint management agreement**

50. As noted above, we have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area.

### **Consultation with departments**

51. In preparing this report, we are required to consult relevant departments. We previously sought advice from Te Puni Kōkiri and the Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana – Te Tari Whakatau regarding the relevant Māori groups in this area, and have incorporated their views into this report.

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<sup>3</sup> The protocol specifies the following matters: cultural materials; freshwater fisheries; culling of species of interest to Ngāi Tahu; historic resources; RMA involvement; and visitor and public information. The protocol provisions relating to the RMA are about working with DOC on advocacy regarding the environmental effects of activities controlled and managed under the RMA, and are unlikely to be directly relevant to this application. The latest version of the protocol is appended to the 2016 Conservation Management Strategy for Canterbury (Waitaha) at pages 290-300: [Canterbury \(Waitaha\) Conservation Management Strategy 2016](#).

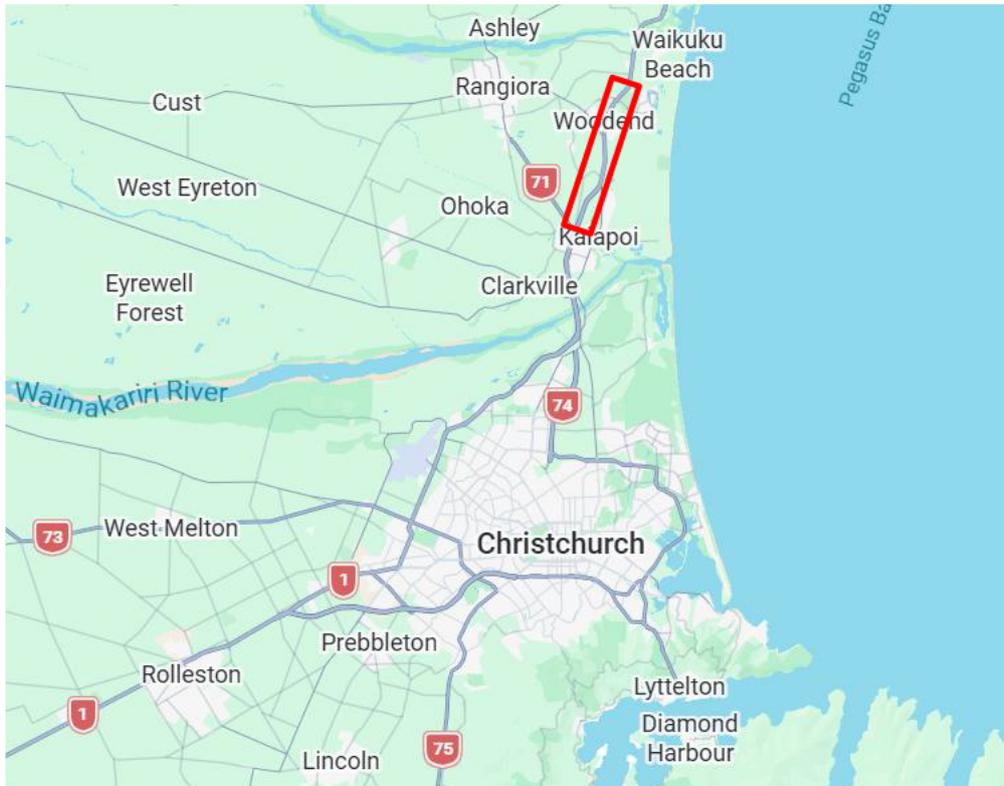
## Attachment 1: Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Section	Information required	Paragraph reference in this report
18(1)	The Minister must, for a referral application, obtain and consider a report that is prepared by the responsible agency in accordance with this section.	Not applicable to substantive applications – s 18 report is required by s 49.
18(2)(a)	Any relevant iwi authorities and relevant Treaty settlement entities	19, 23
18(2)(b)	Any Treaty settlements that relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area	34
18(2)(c)	The relevant principles and provisions in those Treaty settlements, including those that relate to the composition of a decision-making body for the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991	35-47
18(2)(d)	Any recognised negotiation mandates for, or current negotiations for, Treaty settlements that relate to the project area.	24
18(2)(e)	Any court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.	25, 48
18(2)(f)	Any applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 that seek recognition of customary marine title or protected customary rights within the project area.	25, 48
18(2)(g)	Whether the project area would be within or adjacent to, or the project would directly affect, ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (and, if so, the relevant provisions of the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019).	26, 48
18(2)(h)	Whether the project area includes any taiāpure-local fisheries, mātaimai reserves, or areas that are subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996 (and, if so, who the tangata whenua are).	27, 49
18(2)(i)	Whether the project involves an activity that could be the subject of a determination under 23 (and, if so, who the owners of the land are).	29
18(2)(j)	If the proposed approvals include an approval described in any of section 42C(4)(a) to (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance, or designation),	31, 50

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to any relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements.</li> <li>(ii) The relevant principles and provisions in those Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and joint management agreements.</li> </ul>	
<b>18(2)(k)</b>	Any other Māori groups with relevant interests.	32
<b>18(2)(l)</b>	<p>A summary of—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) comments received by the Minister after inviting comments from Māori groups under section 17(1)(d) and (e);</li> <li>(ii) any further information received by the Minister from those groups</li> </ul>	Not applicable to substantive applications
<b>18(2)(m)</b>	The responsible agency's advice on whether, due to any of the matters identified in this section, it may be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.	Not applicable to substantive applications
<b>18(3)</b>	<p>In preparing the report required by this section, the responsible agency must—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) consult relevant departments; and</li> <li>(b) provide a draft of the report to the Minister for Māori Development and the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti.</li> </ul>	Section 18(3)(b) not applicable to substantive applications
<b>18(4)</b>	Those Ministers must respond to the responsible agency within 10 working days after receiving the draft report	Not applicable to substantive applications

## Attachment 2: Project location maps

Map 1. Location of proposed SH1 North Canterbury – Woodend Bypass



Map 2. Local area – location of proposed SH1 North Canterbury – Woodend Bypass



Map 3. Key elements of the proposed SH1 North Canterbury – Woodend Bypass.



**Attachment 3: List of relevant Māori groups**

Name of group	Type of group (section of Act)	Contact persons	Contact email
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998)	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga	iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998)	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Whitiara Centre Limited	other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
The owners of Part Te Wera Māori Reserve 873 Block, S.O. Plan 13785	other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
The owners of Lot 3 Deposited Plan 345904, 171 Gladstone Road, Woodend	other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))	[Redacted]	[Redacted]