



To: Alternative to Brynderwyn Hills Expert Panel
Attention: Mary Hill, Chair

RE: Response to Minute 5 from the panel, ongoing engagement with the applicant and the Department of Conservation's Section 51 report.

Tēnā koutou,

Te Uri o Hāu Settlement Trust is the Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE) for Te Uri o Hāu hapū and the recognised Treaty Settlement Entity for the project area. Te Uri o Hāu Environs is a subsidiary to Te Uri o Hāu Settlement Trust tasked with advocating for kaitiakitanga and rangatiratanga responsibilities in natural resource management and mātauranga Māori values within our statutory area of interest. These comments have been provided by Te Uri o Hāu Environs on behalf of the Te Uri o Hāu Settlement Trust in response to Minute 5 from the expert panel, a note regarding ongoing engagement with the Applicant and comments on the Department of Conservation's (DOC) s.51 report.

1. Future Engagement and Site Visit

Te Uri o Hāu welcomes the opportunity identified in paragraphs 8-10 of Minute 5 for further engagement between the Panel and mana whenua. We consider that a site visit within the Te Uri o Hāu rohe, attended by the Expert Panel, its Special Adviser, and relevant advisers alongside Te Uri o Hāu representatives, would be of significant assistance to the Panel. Such a visit would provide an opportunity for the Panel to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural, historical, environmental, and whakapapa values associated with the area and the matters of significance to Te Uri o Hāu.

Te Uri o Hāu would welcome the opportunity to host the Panel within our rohe and discuss these matters kanohi ki te kanohi on the whenua.

2. Ongoing Engagement with the Applicant

Te Uri o Hāu also wishes to advise the Panel that we are continuing to engage constructively with the Applicant, Waka Kotahi, regarding proposed consent conditions and management plans.

We are working collaboratively to ensure that the consent conditions and management plans appropriately recognise and provide for Te Uri o Hāu cultural values, protect the mauri and wellbeing of te taiao, and establish appropriate measures to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects.

We remain hopeful that this ongoing engagement will result in outcomes that are culturally aligned and provide meaningful protection for our environment.



3. Department of Conservation s.51 Report

Te Uri o Hau submits that the findings of the DOC s.51 Wildlife Approval Report closely align with the concerns, findings and recommendations contained within the Te Uri o Hau Cultural Values and Impacts Assessment (CVIA). The CVIA identifies significant concerns regarding the adequacy of baseline ecological information, the potential fragmentation of the cultural and ecological landscape, and the risks posed to taonga species including Pepeketua (Hochstetter's frog), indigenous lizards (mokomoko), kauri snails, manu (birds), pekapeka (bats) and freshwater taonga species. The CVIA specifically recommends the preparation of a comprehensive Pre-Works Baseline Report, further ecological surveys, ongoing monitoring, and Te Uri o Hau involvement in the management and protection of taonga species prior to any earthworks commencing. Te Uri o Hau notes that the s.51 report similarly identifies information gaps and uncertainties regarding the scale and significance of effects on protected wildlife and taonga species. These findings reinforce the position advanced in the CVIA that the current baseline information is insufficient to fully understand the potential impacts of the Project on culturally and ecologically significant species and habitats. Te Uri o Hau remains concerned that approval of the Project could occur before these matters are adequately resolved. Accordingly, Te Uri o Hau requests that the Expert Panel give significant weight to both the independent findings of the Department of Conservation and the evidence contained within the CVIA and require that outstanding ecological investigations, baseline assessments, and appropriate management responses be completed to the satisfaction of Te Uri o Hau before any project approval is granted or works commence.

Ngā mihi mahana,
Environs Holdings Limited
Te Uri o Hau