

Teena koutou, Mr Dave Serjeant (Chair), Mr Martin Williams and Ms Lou Wickham

Re: Central and Southern Block Mining Project [FTAA-2512-1153] – Comments on Taharoa Ironsands Limited Memorandum dated 14 August 2026

Te Ruunanga o Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaaauru thanks the Panel for the opportunity to comment on Taharoa Ironsands Limited's (TIL's) memorandum dated 14 August 2026 seeking amendments to the process directed by the Panel for responding to RFIs 1, 2, 4 and 9-10.

Te Ruunanga does not oppose the extension of time requested by TIL and acknowledges that additional time may be required to respond fully to the Panel's requests for information.

However, Te Ruunanga does not support the replacement of the conferencing process directed by the Panel. In our view, the process established by the Panel was intended to allow experts and parties to engage directly on the matters identified through the Panel-facilitated conference, to test differing views, refine areas of agreement, and assist the Panel in evaluating appropriate outcomes.

We are concerned that the alternative approach proposed by TIL would shift that process from a collaborative forum to one largely directed by the Applicant. Under the proposed approach, TIL would prepare draft responses and condition wording, receive comments from participating parties, and then determine how those comments are reflected in the material ultimately provided to the Panel.

Te Ruunanga considers that matters relating to cultural values, maatauranga Maaori, wetlands, water management, taonga species, and environmental effects are best addressed through direct engagement between experts and interested parties, rather than through a process where responses are first filtered through the Applicant. Several of the RFIs relate to matters of direct importance to mana whenua and require meaningful participation in the development of conditions, not simply the opportunity to comment on conditions after they have been drafted.

We acknowledge TIL's desire to ensure that operational considerations are properly understood. However, we do not consider that retaining the conferencing process prevents TIL from contributing operational, technical, engineering, or practical information. Those matters can be raised and considered within the process already directed by the Panel.

Should the Panel be minded to allow a modified process, Te Ruunanga submits that all responses and feedback from participating parties should be provided directly to the Panel, with copies to TIL, and that TIL then be given an opportunity to respond. This would preserve transparency and ensure that the Panel receives the views of each party in their original form.

Accordingly, Te Ruunanga respectfully requests that the Panel retain the conferencing process established in Minute 22, while granting any extension of time that the Panel considers necessary to enable those directions to be completed.

Naaku noa, na

John Kanawa

J Kanawa

Te Ruunanga o Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaaaru