BEFORE THE PANEL CONVENER

Application: FTAA-2606-1254

IN THE MATTER of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA)

AND

IN THE MATTER of an Application by New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (Applicant) under section 42 of the FTAA for the State Highway 29 Tauriko Network Connections (including Omanawa Bridge replacement)

MEMORANDUM OF HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA IN RESPONSE TO MINUTE 2 OF THE PANEL CONVENER

23 September 2026

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HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

Introduction

1 This memorandum is filed on behalf of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) in response to the Minute of the Panel Convener dated 16 September 2026 (Minute) in respect of the State Highway 29 Tauriko Network Connections (including Omanawa Bridge replacement) (the Project).

2 The Minute refers to an upcoming conference to gather participant views that will inform decisions of the Convener regarding:

a) the appointment of panel members,

b) the timing of the panel decision.

3 This memorandum addresses the matters identified within the Minute relevant to the archaeological authority application to assist with those decisions.

Schedule 1 – Proposed Timeframe

4 On 17 August 2026, HNZPT was directed to prepare a Report pursuant to s 51 of the FTAA. The timeframe for completion of this report is not triggered until the Panel invites comments from relevant parties.

5 To inform the s 51 Report, Volume D of the application includes an archaeological assessment; archaeological management plan and research strategy (AMP and Research Strategy); archaeological authority plans; draft conditions; and an application for person to undertake the archaeological work.

6 HNZPT has not yet fully reviewed all Volume D documentation to be in a position to provide complete feedback in the convener conference, however, notes some preliminary matters raised by its technical experts:

a) The application includes archaeological sites that have been fully destroyed, as such they do not need to be included in the application;

b) The AMP and Research Strategy is not capable of certification in its current form;

c) The proposed conditions presume that the AMP and Research Strategy has been certified;

d) The proposed conditions will need some amendments; and

e) Splitting the proposal into three separate authorities may not be required once (a) is taken into account.

7 HNZPT is of the view that these are matters it can discuss directly with the Applicant, with the aim of resolving prior to completion of its s 51 Report and recommendation. These are not matters for the Panel to consider, nor do we anticipate them requiring additional time.

Schedule 2 Matters

Approvals

8 The approvals being sought that require consideration and recommendation by HNZPT, being:

a) three archaeological authorities, which would otherwise be applied for under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (s 42(4)(i)); and

b) approval for a person to undertake the activity pursuant to that archaeological authority (s 42(9)(b)).

Complexity

9 HNZPT considers that the archaeological authority application is of low complexity.

Panel Membership

10 Taking all of the above into consideration, HNZPT does not consider there to be any requirement for a person with archaeological experience and experience to be a Panel member.

11 In respect of HNZPT's interests, it does not consider there is any requirement to appoint any additional Panel members, however HNZPT recognises that there may be a requirement to do so in relation to other matters.

Procedural Requirements

12 In respect of procedural requirements, HNZPT:

a) is willing to engage directly with both the Applicant and Panel where required to advance the application;

b) does not anticipate the need for expert conferencing or wānanga in relation to the archaeological authority; and

c) HNZPT confirms that the s 51 Report will be provided within the 10 day period after the Panel invites comments under s 53 of the FTAA.



Mel Russell
Counsel for Heritage New Zealand
Pouhere Taonga