



Te Rūnanga o NGĀI TAHU

28 May 2025

Environmental Protection Authority
Stewart Dawson's Corner
366 Lambton Quay
Wellington 6011
New Zealand

Tēnā koe

This letter is provided on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (**Te Rūnanga**) in relation to the referral application by Southern Link Property Limited (**Southern Link**) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**Fast-track Act**) to establish an inland port, to be known as the “Southern Link Inland Port” (the **Project**).

Te Rūnanga is the statutorily recognised tribal body of Ngāi Tahu whānui (as provided by section 15 of the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 (**TRONT Act**)) and was established as a body corporate on 24 April 1996 under section 6 of the TRONT Act.

Te Rūnanga encompasses five hapū, Kati Kurī, Ngāti Irakehu, Kati Huirapa, Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki, Ngāi Tūāhuriri and 18 Papatipu Rūnanga, who uphold the mana whenua and mana moana of their rohe. Mana whenua are the only people who can describe the values and aspirations for their wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga. Te Rūnanga is responsible for managing, advocating and protecting, the rights and interests inherent to Ngāi Tahu as mana whenua.

The Charter of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu constitutes Te Rūnanga as kaitiaki of the collective tribal interests. Te Rūnanga also has a responsibility to ensure the well-being of all those who live in its takiwā in accordance with the tikanga of manaakitanga. Te Rūnanga is responsible for managing, advocating for and protecting the rights and interests inherently held by Ngāi Tahu whānui as mana whenua.

The Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Declaration of Membership Order 2001) lists the Papatipu Rūnanga that make up Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and describes their respective takiwā. The Papatipu Rūnanga are identified in the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Declaration of Membership Order 2001) as the entities with responsibility for resources and protection of tribal interests within the area in question.

Notwithstanding its statutory status as the representative voice of Ngāi Tahu whānui, Te Rūnanga accepts and respects the right of individuals and Papatipu Rūnanga to make their own responses as representatives of mana whenua. On this basis, and in relation to the fast-track application for the Project, Te Rūnanga supports Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou Incorporated, Kai Huirapa ki Puketeraki Incorporated and Te Rūnanga o Moeraki in relation to this matter - with their position on the application to also be regarded as being the position of Te Rūnanga.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
Te Whare o Te Waipounamu
15 Show Place, Addington, Christchurch, 8024
PO Box 13-046, Christchurch, New Zealand
Phone + 64 3 366 4344, 0800 KAI TAHU
Email: info@ngaitahu.iwi.nz
Website: www.ngaitahu.iwi.nz

This letter is provided to reflect the consultation requirements for referral applications before lodging, under section 11 of the Fast-track Act. Please note that this letter is not an affected party approval for the purposes of either sections 95A or 95B of the Resource Management Act 1991. Te Rūnanga and (in particular) Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou Incorporated, Kai Huirapa ki Puketeraki Incorporated and Te Rūnanga o Moeraki expect to be invited to provide comments on the application under section 17 of the Fast-track Act.

Furthermore, in relation to the report on Treaty settlements and other obligations required under section 18 of the Fast-track Act, Te Rūnanga expects that the responsible agency will work with Ngāi Tahu in preparing the report and will reflect the clearly articulated position of Ngāi Tahu recorded in the Treaty Impact Assessment 2023.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ben Bateman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben Bateman
Chief Executive Officer