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15 June 2026

Tēnā koe Bal

Re: Request for Further Information under the Fast track Approvals Act 2024

On 8 June 2026 the Department of Conservation (DOC) received a request for further information from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in relation to the Hananui Aquaculture Project in accordance with section 67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).

This letter provides a response to the further information requested.

Request

The Applicant has provided updated proposed conditions as referenced in Minute 5 of the Expert Panel. Accordingly, those who provided comment under s53 may now provide comment on the updated conditions, with responses due by 15 June 2026.

Response

The Department has had ongoing engagement with Ngāi Tahu Seafoods on the draft conditions of the application and is largely comfortable with the updates reflected in the 8 June conditions document. There remain number of areas DOC continues to work constructively with NTS on, including how we may work together to collect scientific data, but these are not specifically related to the consent conditions themselves.

There remains one outstanding area of disagreement, which is addressed below. We also note that there are additional minor matters we expect to clarify further at the conditions workshop scheduled for next week.

Wildlife Approval conditions

DOC maintains the view that certification for management plans required under the Wildlife Act 1953 should be managed by the Department, and that it is not appropriate to manage these exclusively under the Resource Management Act certification process. As addressed in the s51 report, DOC administers the Wildlife Act, and will be responsible for compliance, monitoring, and enforcement of this approval, if it is granted. The Department has the appropriate expertise and statutory functions to

carry out this role effectively. It cannot be expected that Environment Southland will be in a position to perform these functions for legislation it does not administer, in addition, Environment Southland has identified in their s53 comments and subsequent correspondence to the Panel, that it does not hold this expertise for these areas.

Alternative drafting for condition 2 is provided in DOC's section 51 report (p.22).

We trust that the response adequately addresses the information requested. If there are further questions in relation to this response please contact me or Amelia Wilkinson at

[REDACTED]

Nāku noa, nā



Jenni Fitzgerald
Fast-track Applications Manager



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government