

BEFORE THE PANEL CONVENER

Application: FTAA- 2605-1227

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

AND

IN THE MATTER of an Application by Bell Road Limited Partnership
under section 42 of the FTAA for the Wairakei South
Project

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

21 July 2026

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
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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 Convenor dated 14 July 2026 (Minute) in respect of the Wairakei South Project (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 in the Schedule 1 of the Minute.

Schedule 1 – Proposed Timeframe

- 4 On 13 July 2026, HNZPT was directed to prepare a Report pursuant to section 51 of the FTAA.
- 5 The application includes an archaeological assessment which is sufficient in order to make a recommendation in the section 51 Report in relation to the archaeological authority application.
- 6 There is no draft Archaeological Management Plan provided with the archaeological authority application for comment or certification.
- 7 There is no application for approval of any person nominated to undertake an activity under the authority, pursuant to clause 7 of Schedule 8.
- 8 As such, these will be provided for in conditions, which we will discuss with the Applicant directly.

- 9 HNZPT has reviewed the proposed timeframes and offers comment only in relation to the archaeological authority approval, that these timings are achievable in respect of that approval.

Schedule 2 Matters

Approvals

- 10 There is one approval being sought that requires consideration and recommendation by HNZPT, being:
- a) an archaeological authority, which would otherwise be applied for under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (section 42(4)(i)).

Complexity

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

Panel Membership

- 12 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.
- 13 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

- 14 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 section 51 Report will be provided within the 10 day period after the Panel invites comments under section 53 of the FTAA.



Mel Russell

Counsel for Heritage New Zealand

Pouhere Taonga