

## **FAST-TRACK APPROVALS ACT 2024 – Substantive Application for Taharoa Central and Southern Block Mining Project**

**To:** Mr. Dave Serjeant, Central and Southern Block Mining Project Expert Panel Chair  
**From:** Te Nehenehenui  
**Date:** 18 August 2026  
**Matter:** Fast Track Application Central and Southern Mining Block [FTAA-2512-1153]

### **Comment on the Proposed Revised Process**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the legal memorandum from Minter Ellison Rudd Watts<sup>1</sup> outlining a proposed alternative approach to responding to some aspects of the Further RFI.

We consider that the conferencing process set out in Minute 22 is a fit-for-purpose approach to ensure differences are tested and recorded transparently. However, it appears the Applicant considers it *“is neither an appropriate nor an effective mechanism for the development of conditions in this context”*.

We disagree, but in the interests of expediency, we are prepared to suggest a compromise to the Applicant’s modified approach.

While the Applicant’s memorandum is carefully framed as reasonable and efficiency-focused, it appears to us there is a risk that the Applicant becomes the primary drafter and gatekeeper of condition wording.

Should the Panel be of a mind to agree to a revised process, it is our preference that we provide the feedback on the Applicant’s draft conditions **directly to the Panel as the decision makers**. We are happy to provide feedback in conjunction with other parties if required and will copy the Applicant into any response<sup>2</sup>.

We note the purpose of FTAA sections 69 and 70 which gives the Applicant the opportunity to respond to draft conditions etc.

### **Extension of the Suspension Period**

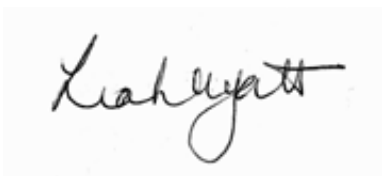
Te Nehenehenui does not object to the proposed extension of the suspension period or the timeframes proposed in para 25.

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<sup>1</sup> Memorandum of counsel on behalf of the Applicant (Taharoa Ironsands Limited) to the Expert Panel. Dated 14 August 2026

<sup>2</sup> Meaning feedback on the Applicant’s (Taharoa Ironsands Limited) responses to RFIs 1, 2, 4 and 9, 10 would be due to be provided to the Expert Panel on 22 September 2026

Thank you for taking the time to consider our comments. We remain committed to finding a robust, collaborative response to the Further RFI.



Leah Wyatt  
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**Te Nehenehenui**

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