

Before the Panel Convener

under: the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024

in the matter of: an application for resource consents, approvals and a notice of requirement to alter a designation, to construct a four-lane, median divided highway to replace existing State Highway 2 corridor between Te Puna and Ōmokoroa, known as 'Takitimu North Link - Stage 2'

applicant: **New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi**
Requiring Authority and Applicant

Memorandum on behalf of Ngāti Taka Hapū

Dated: 10 October 2025

Contacts: Kiri Allan
Stephanie Taiapa

MEMORANDUM ON BEHALF OF NGĀTI TAKA

- 1 This memorandum is filed in relation to the Takitimu North Link – Stage 2 Application (the **Application**) on behalf of Ngāti Taka Hapū.
- 2 On 2 October, the Panel Convener directed that the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (the **Applicant**), the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (**BOPRC**), the Western Bay of Plenty District Council (**WOPDC**), Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (**HNZPT**), the Department of Conservation (**DoC**), Ngāti Taka; and Pirirākau Hapū, Pirirākau Tribal Authority and Pirirākau Post-Settlement Governance Entity (**Pirirākau Hapū**) (collectively the **Participants**) were to confer and confirm what process and time is required to appropriately consider management plans.
- 3 This memorandum responds to that direction.

Preliminary matters

Section 18 – Ngāti Taka status

- 4 The Crown and Ngāti Ranginui entered into the Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Ranginui Treaty Settlement (the **Settlement**) that passed its third reading on 15 May 2025.
- 5 The Settlement conferred post settlement entity status on hapū Post Settlement Governance Entities (**PSGE**) including Te Uho o Ngāti Taka PSGE (**Ngāti Taka**). Consequently, Ngāti Taka are the section 18(2)(a) entity that was wrongly identified by the Ministry for the Environment in the section 18 report (that also has flow through effects and consequences to the roles, duties and obligations required in Schedule Three).
- 6 The Panel Convenor noted that the Councils and Applicant agreed that Ngāti Taka should have been included as participants to the conference held on 1 October 2025. It was agreed that it was incorrect that Ngāti Taka was not included as a relevant entity under section 18(2)(a) of the Section 18 report.
- 7 Ngāti Taka acknowledge the latter invitation and duly did participate in the conference.
- 8 Ngāti Taka request confirmation that it is now being recognised as a section 18(2)(a) entity for the purposes of the Act and this Application.

Proposed draft management plans and process

- 9 Two draft management plans are included in the Application, namely:
 - 9.1 a draft lizard management plan (which forms part of the Wildlife Approval and related conditions); and
 - 9.2 a draft archaeological management plan (which forms part of the Archaeological Authority and related conditions).
- 10 A draft research strategy is also included as part of the Archaeological Authority and related conditions.

- 11 Ngāti Taka note that while the Applicant provided the Draft Management Plans prior to lodgement, there was not agreement on the role of Ngāti Taka for conditions proposed by the Applicant or the future draft management plans and conditions that will be sought after this application process.
- 12 It is pleasing to note however that the Applicant has engaged with Ngāti Taka since the convenors direction on 1 October to confirm it is agreeable to entering into a Relationship Agreement. The joint intention is to finalise this within the next month and in advance of the formal FTAA proceedings commencing.
- 13 Ngāti Taka are aware that there are a plethora of Management Plans yet to be drafted including ecological management plans, landscape and visual management plans amongst others. It expects that the process for engaging with Ngāti Taka will be set out in the Relationship Agreement. Ngāti Taka have raised with the Applicant that it opposes any proposal where it is not an active participant in the development of the Draft Management Plans tabled in the Application.
- 14 Ngāti Taka acknowledge the Applicant's position that any remaining unresolved concerns Ngāti Taka have can be raised through the formal FTAA comment process and will be subject to the relevant statutory timeframes.
- 15 However, as since discussed with the Applicant, Ngāti Taka consider that there is an alternative route available to all parties including that unresolved remaining issues can be addressed and worked through prior to the commencement of the formal FTAA process including, but not limited to, the parties entering into a Relationship Agreement.
- 16 To achieve that end, Ngāti Taka support the proposal for a 30-day period prior to the formal process commencing.

Panel Composition

- 17 Ngāti Taka consider that the panel composition should be comprised of members that have the following expertise:
 - (a) Legal
 - (b) Planning
 - (c) Ecological
 - (d) Mātauranga Māori and Treaty Settlements
- 18 Ngāti Taka consider that the panel member with Mātauranga Māori and Treaty Settlement knowledge is specifically important in these proceedings given that Ngāti Ranginui has just settled with the Crown and have a unique hapū centric settlement. Treaty Settlement expertise and Mātauranga Māori expertise needs to be treated as separate and distinct. Mātauranga Māori expertise is a particular knowledge set that understands the deep knowledge of Māori practices, knowledge sets and methodologies. Treaty Settlement expertise is specific to the Treaty Settlement legal and political processes, and both the legislative and practical implications that fall on the Crown to hapū and iwi.

Ngāti Taka consider that the right panel member can have both of those particular areas of expertise but emphasise that they are two separate sets of expertise.

Timing

19 Ngāti Taka supports:

(a) an additional 30 days to complete further preliminary engagements with the Applicants and other relevant participants to reach agreement on relationship agreements and engagement in the draft management plans / conditions; and

(b) the Applicants proposal of 50 Working Days for the duration of the application process;

(c) the composition of panel members comprised of the following technical expertise: legal, planning, ecological, Mātauranga Māori and Treaty Settlement acumen.

Concluding Remarks

20 Ngāti Taka do not oppose the substantive application and have engaged with the Applicant throughout the course of their preparations. However, there are some key issues that Ngāti Taka deviate from the position of the Applicant, particularly in relation to the scope, nature and role Ngāti Taka have in respect of the proposed management plans and consent conditions. Ngāti Taka consider that these issues are not insurmountable where parties are open to working together and with sufficient time to have the necessary discussions to reach agreement.

Dated 10 October 2025



Stephanie Taiapa
Ngāti Taka Hapū



Kiri Allan
Ngāti Taka Hapū