

**BEFORE THE PANEL CONVENER**

Application: FTAA-2603-1178

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

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of an Application by the New Zealand Transport Agency  
Waka Kotahi under section 42 of the FTAA for the  
Alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills project

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

**8 June 2026**

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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 21 May 2026 (Minute) in respect of the Alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills Project (the Project).
- 2 The Minute refers to an upcoming conference to gather participant views that will inform decisions of the Convenor 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 and 2 of the Minute.

## **Attendance at Convenor's Conference**

- 4 Unfortunately, HNZPT are not available to attend the Convenor's Conference due to a conflict with concurrent expert witness hearings for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
- 5 HNZPT does not anticipate any issues relating to the archaeological authority application that need to be raised in this Conference or with the Expert Panel.
- 6 It is the preferred approach of HNZPT to work directly with applicants so any issues are raised early and can be discussed prior to HNZPT providing its section 51 Report to the Expert Panel. Through these discussions, HNZPT aims to present an agreed set of conditions in the section 51 Report.

## **Schedule 1 – Proposed Timeframe**

- 7 The New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (the Applicant) has engaged with HNZPT prior to lodging the application, both through pre-application meetings and subsequent conversations.

- 8 On 29 April 2026, HNZPT was directed to prepare a Report pursuant to section 51 of the FTAA.
- 9 HNZPT confirms that there is sufficient information in order to make a recommendation in its section 51 Report. As above, where there are any matters requiring clarification or amendment, HNZPT will work directly with the Applicant, particularly in respect of conditions and expectations for the Historic Heritage Management Plan and Archaeological Research and Mitigation Strategy.
- 10 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

- 11 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

- 12 HNZPT considers some elements of the archaeological authority application to be of low to medium complexity. There are a number of archaeological sites, including pā sites, within the designation boundary. HNZPT acknowledges the efforts made by the Applicant to avoid the pā sites in the archaeological authority boundary, which is a positive outcome for archaeology and also consistent with the relevant HNZPT Statements of General Policy.
- 13 HNZPT also acknowledges that the Applicant has recognised the need to include protection measures in the archaeological authority conditions in relation to these sites. The parties will need to discuss

the finer points of these conditions, however this will not impact on the Panel's time for processing.

#### Panel Membership

- 14 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.
- 15 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

- 16 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