

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: 31 July 2026
Matter: Fast Track Application Central and Southern Mining Block [FTAA-2512-1153]

Statutory Acknowledgement – Wainui Stream - Deed Plan OMCR-049-18

Minter Ellison Rudd Watts set out in their legal memorandum¹ that the Wainui Stream is not within the scope of the statutory acknowledgement. Te Nehenehenui have sought advice on this matter. As promised to the Expert Panel during conferencing last week, we provide our written response as follows.

To clarify, Wainui Stream is not included in the broad statutory acknowledgement over Nga Wai o Maniapoto. That statutory acknowledgement covers all waterways within the named catchments as listed in Deed Plan OMCR-049-18 of the Deed of Settlement. Wainui Stream is part of its own distinct coastal watershed which drains directly from Lake Taharoa to the Tasman Sea and is not captured within the catchments that fall within the Nga Wai o Maniapoto Statutory Acknowledgment area.

However, Wainui Stream is included within the Coastal Statutory Acknowledgement (Deed Plan OMCR-049-04). At the very least, the Coastal Statutory Acknowledgement applies to Wainui stream at the point it connects with sea.

In considering whether Maniapoto can rely on the Coastal Statutory Acknowledgment for the purposes of the fast-track application, section 39 of the Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022 permits Maniapoto to use a statutory acknowledgement as evidence of association of Maniapoto “with a statutory area, cite the statutory acknowledgement that relates to that area in submissions concerning activities within, adjacent to, or directly affecting the statutory area”. As such, it is Te Nehenehenui’s view that the Coastal Statutory Acknowledgment enables Maniapoto to make submissions relating to the association and values of Maniapoto in relation to Wainui Stream because:

- a. The mouth of Wainui Stream is clearly within the Coastal Statutory Acknowledgment area;
- b. Other activities within Wainui Stream are arguably “adjacent to” or “directly affect” the statutory area.

¹ Memorandum of counsel on behalf of Taharoa Ironsands Limited to the Expert Panel in Response to Comments Dated 22 June 2026

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter. We trust this more clearly addresses this matter and apologise to the Expert Panel for any confusion.



Tramaine Murray
Settlement Protection, Rights and Interests Manager
Te Nehenehenui


