

File ref: FTAA-2504-1048

11 December 2025

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160
By email: S.Jones@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Request for information from the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries in relation to the Taranaki VTM application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

The Taranaki VTM Expert Panel (the Panel) has directed the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to request further information from you under section 67 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), relating to the Taranaki VTM application.

From the material currently before the Panel, there appears to be a tension between:

- the official MPI / FNZ GIS layer for the Te Tau Hauauru rohe moana; and
- the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries' comment that *"More recently, Taranaki iwi have used the Regulations to establish a rohe moana that overlays the project area to a significant degree and which may be affected by the sediment plume"*.

As part of the Panel's process:

- MPI / FNZ has provided the Panel with mapping of customary fisheries areas relevant to the Taranaki VTM application, including the Te Tau Hauauru rohe moana, in response to Minute 10; and
- iwi evidence, records and relies on the Minister's statement quoted above.

Using the MPI / FNZ dataset supplied under Minute 10, the Panel's current understanding is that the spatial overlap between:

- the Te Tau Hauauru rohe moana (using the MPI / FNZ dataset),
- fisheries statistical area 040 within FMA8, and
- the TTR application area,

is real but relatively limited in areal extent, confined to deep water above the application footprint.

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Given this, at the direction of the Panel, the EPA is seeking the following information:

1. Could you please clarify what was intended by the statement *“More recently, Taranaki iwi have used the Regulations to establish a rohe moana that overlays the project area to a significant degree and which may be affected by the sediment plume”*, including the reference to the rohe moana *“overlying the project area to a significant degree”*, by:
 - indicating which specific rohe moana the Minister was referring to in that statement, and the iwi or iwi grouping in whose name that rohe moana has been established;
 - briefly explaining, with reference to relevant mapping where appropriate, what is meant by *“overlays the project area to a significant degree”*, including to the extent possible, how that description aligns with the overlap shown in the MPI / FNZ dataset supplied under Minute 10;
 - indicating, so far as you are aware, whether this comment was based on any mapping, datasets or regulatory instruments that differ from the customary fisheries GIS layer supplied to the Panel; and
 - if possible, indicating whether MPI / FNZ considers the extent of overlap shown in the dataset supplied under Minute 10 to be consistent with the phrase *“to a significant degree”* as used in the Minister’s statement. If your assessment differs from that description, a brief explanation would assist the Panel’s understanding.
2. Please indicate the status and accuracy of the mapping:
 - Indicate whether, in MPI / FNZ’s view, the current GIS dataset for the Te Tau Hauauru rohe moana is complete and up to date, including any amendments or new regulations made since the dataset was first published;
 - If any changes or additions have been made or are pending (but not yet reflected in the public GIS layer), it would be helpful if copies of the relevant regulations and, if possible, an updated spatial file and/or map suitable for use in the Panel’s decision could be provided; and
 - where available, a map showing the overlay, with a brief note of the information sources used to create it.
3. If this information is available, it would also assist the Panel if MPI / FNZ could describe, at a high level, how MPI / FNZ understands customary fishing authorisations to be taken via commercial fishing vessels within statistical areas 040 and 041 in FMA8, and how that practice relates to any rohe moana that overlap the application area and or sediment plume. The Panel is not seeking individual-level catch data, but a general policy and operational description to understand the practical implications of any overlap which may be described or considered significant.

Supply of Information

In accordance with section 67(2) of the Act the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries is asked to:

- a) Provide electronic copies of the information or report requested; or
- b) Advise the EPA, with reasons that you decline to provide the information or report requested.

Please provide the further information to the EPA by **18 December 2025** or if further time is required, please notify us as soon as possible prior.

Please note, the information will be provided to the Panel, the applicant and every person who provided comments on the application. The information will also be made available on the Fast-track website.

If you have any questions, please contact Application Lead [REDACTED] by email at info@fasttrack.govt.nz

Nāku noa, nā

