

Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation
Minister for Māori Crown Relations
Minister for Māori Development
Minister for Whānau Ora
Associate Minister of Housing



30 April 2026

By email: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Tēnā koe,

Invitation to comment on the State Highway 1 North Canterbury-Woodend Bypass (Belfast to Pegasus) Project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Thank you for the invitation to comment on this project under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

I support the application, subject to the Expert Panel having due regard to any comments received from relevant Māori groups, as identified in both the Section 18 report and in Minute 2 of the Expert Panel.

I also encourage the Expert Panel to have regard to

- a. the cultural significance of the project area within Ngā Tūranga Tūpuna, including associations with waterways, wāhi tapu, urupā and ancestral landscapes.
- b. identified and potential effects on taonga species (including Kāmana, Tarāpuka and Kūaka).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Tama Potaka'.

Hon Tama Potaka

Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori me Te Minita mō Te Arawhiti
Minister for Māori Development and Minister for Māori Crown Relations