



Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Treaty settlements and other obligations (Section 18) report

Project Name: FTAA-2510-1124 Queenstown Cable Car

To:	Date:
Hon Shane Jones, Acting Minister for Infrastructure	18 February 2026

Number of attachments: 6	Attachments: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 20242. Project location map3. List of relevant Māori groups4. Statutory acknowledgement for Whakatipu-wai-māori (Lake Wakatipu) from Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 19985. Comments received from invited Māori groups6. Comments received from the Minister for Māori Development and Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
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Key points

1. The Ministry for the Environment (on behalf of the Secretary for the Environment) has prepared this report on Treaty settlements and other obligations under section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), in relation to the FTAA-2510-1124 Queenstown Cable Car referral application.
2. The applicant, Southern Infrastructure (Cable Car) Limited, proposes to develop an electric cable car mass transit system between the Queenstown town centre, Frankton, and the eastern growth corridor at Ladies Mile. The proposal includes a series of tower structures, nine passenger station buildings and a dedicated electric bus parking and charging facility. The project area includes recreation reserves, transport corridors, public conservation land, other Crown land, and privately-owned land. The applicant is seeking approvals

under the Act that would otherwise be sought under the Resource Management Act (RMA), Conservation Act 1987, Reserves Act 1977, and Wildlife Act 1953.

3. Section 18(2) of the Act requires that this report provide a list of relevant Māori groups, including relevant iwi authorities and Treaty settlement entities. We have identified Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, Hokonui Rūnanga, Waihōpai Rūnaka, Te Rūnanga o Awarua, Te Rūnanga o Ōraka-Aparima, Aukaha, and Te Ao Marama Incorporated as the relevant groups for the project area.
4. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 is the relevant Treaty settlement for the project area. We have not identified any other obligations such as Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements.
5. While the Ngāi Tahu settlement provides for a statutory acknowledgement over Whakatipu-wai-māori/Lake Wakatipu, the project area is set back from the lake and the information provided by the applicant suggests it is unlikely to be directly affected. We have identified a number of other settlement provisions – including a deed of recognition, right of first refusal, taonga species, a nohoanga entitlement, and a conservation protocol – which do not appear to be impacted by the application as it currently stands, but nonetheless underline the traditional connection of Ngāi Tahu with this area and its environment.
6. Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki provided comments on the referral application, expressing a neutral position on the application, but noting they have entered into a process agreement with the applicant.
7. The Minister for Māori Development and Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti support the application for referral, subject to the panel for any substantive application considering whether the proposed activities will affect Whakatipu-wai-Māori (Lake Wakatipu) and other statutory areas under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, and the impact of the proposal on taonga species identified in that settlement. The Minister also encourages the applicant to continue to engage with all relevant Māori groups identified.
8. We do not consider there are any matters raised in this report which make it more appropriate for the proposed approvals to be authorised under another Act or Acts.

Signature



Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Introduction

9. Under section 18 of the Act, you must obtain and consider a report on Treaty settlements and other obligations for each referral application, prepared by the responsible agency (Secretary for the Environment).
10. The information which must be provided in this report includes:
 - a. relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 (MACA), and other Māori groups with interests in the project area;
 - b. relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements;
 - c. a summary of comments and further information received from invited Māori groups; and
 - d. advice on whether it may be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.
11. This report is structured accordingly. We have provided a list of the relevant provisions of section 18 at **Attachment 1**.

Proposed project

12. The applicant, Southern Infrastructure (Cable Car) Limited, proposes to develop an electric cable car mass transit system between the Queenstown town centre, Frankton, and the eastern growth corridor at Ladies Mile. The project will provide a high-capacity alternative to vehicle travel on State Highways 6A and 6, operating independently of the road network. The proposal includes a series of tower structures, nine passenger station buildings and a dedicated electric bus parking and charging facility.
13. The project area includes recreation reserves, transport corridors, public conservation land, other Crown land, and privately-owned land. The applicant does not own or have a legal interest in any of the land within the project area. The applicant is seeking approvals under the Act that would otherwise be sought under the RMA (including land use, subdivision, earthworks, use of beds of rivers and lakes, discharge), Conservation Act 1987 (concessions, amendment to conservation covenant), Reserves Act 1977 (leases/licences/easements), and Wildlife Act 1953 (capture/relocation of lizards).
14. We have provided a location map at **Attachment 2**.

Relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, and other Māori groups

15. We note that some entities identified below may be included in more than one category. We have included a composite list of all groups at **Attachment 3**.

Iwi authorities

16. Under section 4(2) of the Act, 'iwi authority' has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the RMA:

the authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so.
17. We consider Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, representing Ngāi Tahu, is the relevant iwi authority for the project area.

Treaty settlement entities

18. Under section 4(1) of the Act, “Treaty settlement entity” means any of the following:

- (a) a post-settlement governance entity (PSGE):*
- (b) a board, trust, committee, authority, or other body, incorporated or unincorporated, that is recognised in or established under any Treaty settlement Act:*
- (c) an entity or a person that is authorised by a Treaty settlement Act to act for a natural resource feature with legal personhood:*
- (d) Te Ohu Kai Moana or a mandated iwi organisation (as those terms are defined in section 5(1) of the Maori Fisheries Act 2004):*
- (e) an iwi aquaculture organisation (as defined in section 4 of the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004).*

19. Under the Act, a PSGE:

- (a) means a body corporate or the trustees of a trust established, for the purpose of receiving redress in the Treaty settlement of a claimant group,—*
 - (i) by that group; or*
 - (ii) by or under an enactment or order of a court; and*
- (b) includes—*
 - (i) an entity established to represent a collective or combination of claimant groups; and*
 - (ii) an entity controlled by an entity referred to in paragraph (a); and*
 - (iii) an entity controlled by a hapū to which redress has been transferred by an entity referred to in paragraph (a).*

20. In keeping with the procedural principles outlined at section 10 of the Act, we only identify those PSGEs which are specified in the relevant Treaty settlement Act or Treaty settlement deed.¹

21. We have identified the following relevant Treaty settlement entities for this project area:

- a. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, PSGE for the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998;
- b. Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, representing Moeraki, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998;
- c. Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, representing Puketeraki, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998;
- d. Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, representing Ōtākou, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998;
- e. Hokonui Rūnanga, representing Hokonui, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998;

¹ Should a panel be made aware of a Treaty settlement entity established after the Treaty settlement Act is enacted (e.g. on the advice of a PSGE), then there would appear to be nothing to prevent the panel from inviting that entity to comment on the application under section 53(2)(c) of the Act.

- f. Waihōpai Rūnaka, representing Waihōpai, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998;
- g. Te Rūnanga o Awarua, representing Awarua, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998; and
- h. Te Rūnanga o Ōraka-Aparima, representing Ōraka-Aparima, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Groups mandated to negotiate Treaty settlements

22. There are no groups which have recognised mandates to negotiate a Treaty settlement over an area which may include the project area. All historical claims under te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi have been settled in respect of the project area.

Takutai Moana groups and ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou

- 23. The project area does not include the common marine and coastal area, and accordingly there are no relevant applicant groups under MACA, and no court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.
- 24. The project area is not within ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (as set out in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019).

Iwi or hapū whose practices are recognised under the Fisheries Act 1996 through regulation or bylaws

25. The project area is not within a taiāpure-local fisheries area or mātaimai reserve. Under the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999, made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996, the project area is within the South Island fisheries waters. However, to date no notice has been issued under those regulations to establish a customary food gathering area/rohe moana that would include the project area.

Owners of identified Māori land where electricity infrastructure or land transport infrastructure is proposed

- 26. Section 23 of the Act provides that, in making a decision on a referral application under section 21, the Minister may determine that, for the purposes of the project, an activity described in section 5(1)(a) is not an ineligible activity if it:
 - a. is the construction of electricity lines or land transport infrastructure by (or to be operated by) a network utility operator that is a requiring authority; and
 - b. would occur on identified Māori land that is Māori freehold land or General land owned by Māori that was previously Māori freehold land.
- 27. This project does not involve an activity described in section 23(1) (i.e. including both (a) and (b)) of the Act.

Iwi authorities and groups representing hapū who are party to relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements

28. If the project area is within the boundaries of either a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreement, and the application includes a proposed RMA approval described in section 42(4)(a) to (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance, or

designation), we are required to identify the relevant iwi authority/group that represent hapū that are parties to these arrangements.

29. We have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area, and accordingly there no parties to these arrangements to identify.

Any other Māori groups with relevant interests

30. We have also identified the following entities, owned by the relevant papatipu rūnanga, as other Māori groups with relevant interests, as they may represent the papatipu rūnanga on environmental and other matters in the project area:

- a. Aukaha, representing Otago-based papatipu rūnaka² – Moeraki, Puketeraki, Ōtākou and Hokonui; and
- b. Te Ao Mārama Incorporated, representing Murihiku papatipu rūnanga – Ōraka Aparima, Waihōpai, Awarua and Hokonui.

31. For your information, the applicant advises they have consulted all of the groups identified above.

Relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements

Treaty settlements

32. Under section 4(1) of the Act, a Treaty settlement includes both a Treaty settlement Act and a Treaty settlement deed which is signed by both the Crown and representatives of a group of Māori.

33. The following Treaty settlements relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area:

- a. Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Relevant principles and provisions

34. Section 7 of the Act requires all persons exercising powers and functions under the Act to act in a manner consistent with Treaty settlements. The relevant principles and provisions for each of these settlements are set out below.

Crown acknowledgements and apologies

35. As part of the Ngāi Tahu Treaty settlement, the Crown apologised to Ngāi Tahu for its past failures to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana over the South Island lands within its boundaries, and, in fulfilment of its Treaty obligations, the Crown states that it recognises Ngāi Tahu as the tāngata whenua of, and as holding rangatiratanga within, the takiwā of Ngāi Tahu whānui.

36. Respect for Ngāi Tahu views on resource management matters and enabling effective involvement of Ngāi Tahu as a Treaty partner in resource management decision-making

² The variation in use of Rūnaka/Rūnanga is due to regional dialects.

within the takiwā are important ways in which the Crown can give ongoing effect to these acknowledgements and uphold its relationship with Ngāi Tahu.

Statutory acknowledgements

37. As one of the first comprehensive settlements of historical claims, the Ngāi Tahu settlement pre-dated some of the redress mechanisms which have subsequently been developed for use in later settlements to provide for participation by iwi and hapū in decision-making over natural resources. However, the Ngāi Tahu settlement was the first settlement to include statutory acknowledgements, which are an acknowledgement by the Crown of a 'statement of association' between the iwi and an identified area (the 'statutory area').
38. Under the RMA and relevant Treaty settlement Acts, a consent authority must, when considering a resource consent for a proposed activity that is within, adjacent to, or affecting a statutory area:
- a. provide a summary of the application to the holder of the statutory acknowledgement. The summary of the application must be the same as would be given to an affected person by limited notification under the RMA. The summary must be provided as soon as is reasonably practicable after the relevant consent authority receives the application, but before they decide whether to notify the application; and
 - b. have regard to the statutory acknowledgement when deciding whether the holder (generally a PSGE) is an 'affected person' for the purposes of notification decisions under the RMA.³
39. The holder of a statutory acknowledgment may also cite this as evidence of their association with a statutory area in any submission before a relevant consent authority (or the Environmental Protection Authority, board of inquiry, Environment Court, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga), who may, in turn, take that statutory acknowledgement into account.
40. We have checked the project area in relation to any statutory acknowledgements held by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and the nearest is over Whakatipu-wai-māori (Lake Wakatipu). As indicated by the images at **Attachment 2**, the project area is set back from Lake Wakatipu (by approximately 200 metres at its closest point).
41. Under section 205 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, a statutory acknowledgement for a lake does not include any river or watercourse, artificial or otherwise, draining into or out of a lake. Nevertheless, it has become common practice in subsequent Treaty settlements for statutory acknowledgements over waterways to include tributaries. This approach is consistent with the concept in Te Ao Māori of ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea), whereby water is viewed in a holistic way, and should be managed accordingly.
42. The statutory acknowledgement over Whakatipu-wai-māori may be relevant if the project directly affects the statutory area. For example, the waterways within the project area ultimately drain into the lake, and the information provided by the applicant identifies the risk (and proposed mitigation) of temporary degradation of waterways from earthworks or sediment discharge.⁴ Should you accept the application for a referral, and a substantive

³ In addition to consent authorities, the Environment Court and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga must also have regard to statutory acknowledgements in relation to some of their processes.

⁴ The applicant notes that the project does not include any abstraction, diversion or discharge to the Kawarau or Shotover Rivers and all stormwater will be treated and discharged to land.

application is made, then the panel may want to consider whether there will be any impact on the lake of the proposed activities, thereby bringing the statutory acknowledgement into play.

43. The project area does include the Shotover River, which flows into the Kawarau River several kilometres downstream from Lake Wakatipu. As noted above, rivers draining out of Lake Wakatipu are not included within the scope of the statutory acknowledgement. The Shotover and Kawarau Rivers also flow into Te Wairere (Lake Dunstan) and Mata-au (Clutha River). The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 provides for a statutory acknowledgement over both Te Wairere and Matau-au, but similarly those statutory areas do not include the Kawarau or Shotover Rivers.
44. In any case, we consider the process of inviting comment from relevant Treaty settlement entities under section 17 of the Act (including providing information about the application) is comparable to the process under Treaty settlements and the RMA of providing those who hold statutory acknowledgements with a summary of the application.
45. For your reference, we have provided the statutory acknowledgement provision for Whakatipu-wai-māori from the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 at **Attachment 4**.

Deed of recognition

46. In addition to the statutory acknowledgement, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu also have a deed of recognition with the Minister of Conservation and the Commissioner of Crown Lands over Whakatipu-wai-māori. A deed of recognition may be entered into between a PSGE and the Crown agency managing any statutory area for which a statutory acknowledgment has been agreed.
47. The deed of recognition requires the relevant Crown agency to consult with, and have regard to the views of, the relevant PSGE when undertaking specified activities relating to the statutory area. These activities primarily relate to the preparation of management plans or strategies but may also include considering applications for rights of use or occupation, for example.
48. We do not consider these provisions are relevant to this application, as the relevant Crown agencies are not undertaking any of the activities covered by the deeds of recognition, nor is the applicant seeking use rights or occupation in relation to the Crown-owned parts of the lakebed.

Right of first refusal

49. Part 9 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 provides for a 'right of first refusal' (RFR) for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu over relevant Crown land if it is disposed of, which includes if such land is leased for 50 years or longer. The application includes the proposed lease of several parcels of reserve land vested in the Crown, including for the location of two of the proposed cable car stations (Frankton and Airport). We note that the applicant has acknowledged that this land is subject to the RFR, and will seek leases for a term less than 50 years. The applicant has also undertaken to discuss this with Ngāi Tahu, with a view to agreeing on an appropriate term for the leases over any reserve land.

Taonga species

50. The Crown has acknowledged the special association of Ngāi Tahu with certain taonga species of birds, plants and animals. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 contains several other provisions relating to taonga species, including a requirement that the Minister of Conservation to consult with, and have particular regard to the views of, Te

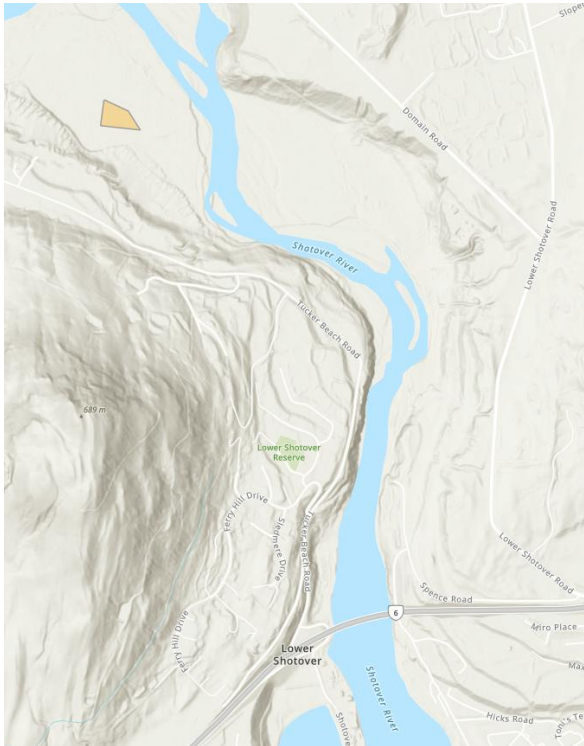
Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu when making policy decisions concerning the protection, management, or conservation of a taonga species.

51. The application seeks an approval under the Wildlife Act 1953 for the handling/relocation of lizards, which are not included amongst the taonga species in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. However, the ecological assessment commissioned by the applicant notes there are 21 taonga plant species and 16 taonga bird species found on or near the project area, including several classified as threatened or at risk.⁵
52. Although the settlement provisions regarding taonga species do not place any procedural obligations on the applicant or consent authority in relation to the approvals being sought as part of this application, the redress illustrates the importance of these species to Ngāi Tahu. Accordingly, a panel considering a substantive application for this project may wish to understand any impact of the proposed activities on taonga species.

Nohoanga

53. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 includes provisions for nohoanga/nohoaka entitlements, whereby members of Ngāi Tahu may camp temporarily on Crown land close to waterways for the purposes of gathering mahinga/mahika kai and other natural resources.
54. The nearest nohoanga site (as provided through the settlement) to the project area is at Tuckers Beach on the Shotover Riverbed, approximately two kilometres upstream from the project area. This land is likely to be administered by LINZ on behalf of the Commissioner for Crown Lands. The approximate location of this site is depicted by the orange polygon in the image below:

⁵ Taonga bird species in or near the project area: Kārearea/NZ falcon, Tarapirohe/Black-fronted tern, Kākā/South Island kaka, Pūteketeke/Australasian crested grebe, Pīhoihoi/NZ pipit, Kāruhiruhi/Pied shag, Māpunga/Black shag, Kawau paka/Little shag, Kāhu/Australasian harrier, Korimako/Bellbird, Pīpīwharau/roa/Shining cuckoo, Riroriro/Grey warbler, Kōtare/Kingfisher, Karoro/Southern black-backed gull, Tūī/Tui, Pīwakawaka/South Island fantail.



55. Under section 260(5)(b) of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, the landholding agent⁶ for the nohoanga entitlement land, in carrying out land and water management practices relating to that land, must notify Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu of any activity which may affect the holder. Based on the information provided by the applicant, it is unlikely the proposed activities will impact on the nohoanga site.
56. The provision of nohoanga entitlements through the settlement underscores the importance to Ngāi Tahu of maintaining customary practices and their deep connections to the area. It is likely that there are other, traditional nohoanga sites in the area which are not recognised through the settlement but nonetheless carry those cultural associations. Local tangata whenua and their representatives would be best placed to advise on such matters in the first instance.

Conservation protocol

57. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 provides for the Minister of Conservation to issue a protocol which sets out how the Department of Conservation (DOC) will exercise its functions, powers, and duties in relation to specified matters within the Ngāi Tahu claim area, and how DOC will interact with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and provide for their input into DOC's decision-making process.
58. While the current version of the protocol which covers the project area provides for engagement with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu on certain matters,⁷ in general it does not

⁶ The Minister of the Crown responsible for the department which manages the existing or proposed entitlement land, or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as the case may be.

⁷ The protocol specifies the following matters: cultural materials; freshwater fisheries; culling of species of interest to Ngāi Tahu; historic resources; RMA involvement; and visitor and public information. The protocol provisions relating to the RMA are about working with DOC on advocacy regarding the environmental effects of activities controlled and managed under the RMA, and are unlikely to be directly relevant to this application. The latest

address the types of conservation-related approvals sought by the applicant (i.e. concessions, amendment of a conservation covenant under the Conservation Act 1987, leases/licences/easements under the Reserves Act 1977, and Wildlife Act 1953 approvals).

Other redress

59. We note that the Ngāi Tahu settlement also provides for commercial redress, in the form of seven 'deferred selection properties' in central Queenstown,⁸ located within several blocks of the proposed cable car station. While this redress is unlikely to be affected by the application, it underlines the connection of Ngāi Tahu with this area.

Customary Marine Title/Protected Customary Rights

60. As noted above, the project area is not within a customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or within or adjacent to ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou.

Taiāpure-local fisheries/mātaimai reserves/areas subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996

61. As noted above, the project area does not include a taiāpure-local fishery or mātaimai reserve, but it is within the South Island fisheries waters for the purposes of the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999, made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996. To date no notice has been issued under those regulations to establish a customary food gathering area/rohe moana that would include the project area. If a notice is issued, it provides for tangata whenua to take fisheries resources and manage customary fishing within the rohe moana.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe/Joint management agreement

62. As noted above, we have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area.

Summary of comments received and advice

Comments from invited Māori groups

63. Pursuant to section 17(1)(d) of the Act, on 12 December 2025 you invited written comments from the Māori groups identified above in paragraphs 15-31, from a list we previously provided you. These groups were provided with access to the application material and had 20 working days from receipt of the copy of the application to respond.

64. You received comments on the application from Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, which can be summarised as follows:

- a. Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki emphasised their centuries' long customary associations with the Queenstown Lakes District and its resources, which continue to this day;

version of the protocol is appended to the 2016 Conservation Management Strategy for Otago at pages 285-292: [Otago Conservation Management Strategy 2016 volume 1](#)

⁸ A deferred selection property enables a PSGE to decide whether to purchase certain Crown properties during a fixed period after settlement.

- b. alongside the other papatipu rūnaka, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki have entered into a process agreement with the applicant, to guide engagement on the project, its effects, and propose mitigation measures; and
- c. Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki is currently adopting a neutral position on the referral application.

65. We have provided a copy of these comments at **Attachment 5**.

Consultation with departments and Ministers

66. In preparing this report, we are required to:

- a. consult relevant departments; and
- b. provide a draft of the report to the Minister for Māori Development and the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti (for response within 10 working days).

67. We have previously sought advice from Te Puni Kōkiri and The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana – Te Tari Whakatau regarding the relevant Māori groups, and have incorporated their views into this report. We also consulted the Ministry for Primary Industries in relation to customary fisheries.

68. The Minister for Māori Development and Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti support the application for referral, subject to the panel for any substantive application considering:

- a. whether the proposed activities will affect the following, pursuant to statutory obligations under Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998: Whakatipu-wai-Māori (Lake Wakatipu); Te Wairere (Lake Dunstan); Mata-au (Clutha River); and
- b. the impact of the proposal on taonga species.

69. The Minister also encourages the applicant to continue to engage with all relevant Māori groups identified. We have included a copy of the Minister's feedback at **Attachment 6**.

Advice on whether it may be more appropriate to deal with the proposed approvals under another Act/s

70. Under section 18(2)(m), this report must include our advice on whether, due to any of the matters identified in section 18, it may be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.

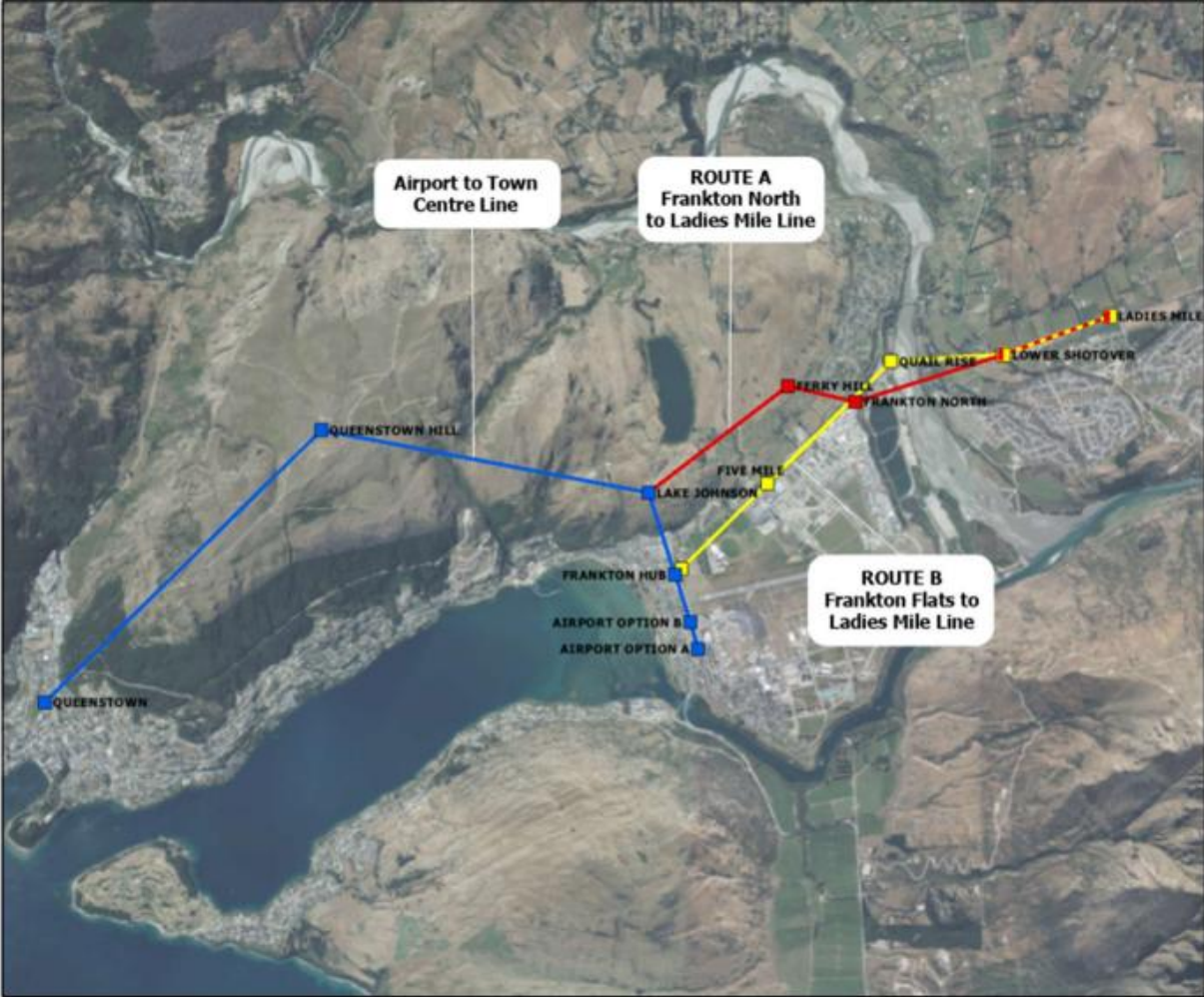
71. We do not consider there are any matters raised in this report which make it more appropriate for the proposed approvals to be authorised under another Act or Acts.

Attachment 1: Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Section	Information required	Paragraph reference in this report
18(1)	The Minister must, for a referral application, obtain and consider a report that is prepared by the responsible agency in accordance with this section.	9-11
18(2)(a)	Any relevant iwi authorities and relevant Treaty settlement entities	16-21
18(2)(b)	Any Treaty settlements that relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area	32-33
18(2)(c)	The relevant principles and provisions in those Treaty settlements, including those that relate to the composition of a decision-making body for the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991	34-59
18(2)(d)	Any recognised negotiation mandates for, or current negotiations for, Treaty settlements that relate to the project area.	22
18(2)(e)	Any court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.	23, 60
18(2)(f)	Any applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 that seek recognition of customary marine title or protected customary rights within the project area.	23, 60
18(2)(g)	Whether the project area would be within or adjacent to, or the project would directly affect, ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (and, if so, the relevant provisions of the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019).	24, 60
18(2)(h)	Whether the project area includes any taiāpure-local fisheries, mātaihai reserves, or areas that are subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996 (and, if so, who the tangata whenua are).	25, 61
18(2)(i)	Whether the project involves an activity that could be the subject of a determination under 23 (and, if so, who the owners of the land are).	26-27
18(2)(j)	If the proposed approvals include an approval described in any of section 42C(4)(a) to (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance, or designation), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to any relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements. 	28-29, 62

	(ii) The relevant principles and provisions in those Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and joint management agreements.	
18(2)(k)	Any other Māori groups with relevant interests.	30-31
18(2)(l)	A summary of— (i) comments received by the Minister after inviting comments from Māori groups under section 17(1)(d) and (e); (ii) any further information received by the Minister from those groups	63-65
18(2)(m)	The responsible agency's advice on whether, due to any of the matters identified in this section, it may be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.	70-71
18(3)	In preparing the report required by this section, the responsible agency must— (a) consult relevant departments; and (b) provide a draft of the report to the Minister for Māori Development and the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti.	66-67
18(4)	Those Ministers must respond to the responsible agency within 10 working days after receiving the draft report	68-69

Attachment 2: Project location map



Attachment 3: List of relevant Māori groups

Name of group	Type of group (section of Act)
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)); Treaty settlement entity – Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (s18(2)(a))
Te Rūnanga o Moeraki	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Hokonui Rūnanga	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Waihōpai Rūnaka	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Te Rūnanga o Awarua	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Te Rūnanga o Ōraka-Aparima	Treaty settlement entity – Papatipu Rūnanga (s18(2)(a))
Aukaha	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))
Te Ao Mārama Incorporated	Other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))

Attachment 4: Statutory acknowledgement for Whakatipu-wai-māori (Lake Wakatipu) from Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

Schedule 75

Statutory acknowledgement for Whakatipu-wai-māori (Lake Wakatipu)

ss 205, 206

Statutory area

The statutory area to which this statutory acknowledgement applies is the lake known as Whakatipu-wai-māori (Lake Wakatipu), the location of which is shown on Allocation Plan MD 39 (SO 24720).

Preamble

Under section 206, the Crown acknowledges Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu's statement of Ngāi Tahu's cultural, spiritual, historic, and traditional association to Whakatipu-wai-māori, as set out below.

Ngāi Tahu association with Whakatipu-wai-māori

The name Whakatipu-wai-māori originates from the earliest expedition of discovery made many generations ago by the tupuna Rakaihautu and his party from the Uruao waka. Rakaihautu is traditionally credited with creating the great waterways of the interior of the island with his famous kō (a tool similar to a spade), known as Tū Whakaroria and renamed Tuhiraki at the conclusion of the expedition.

There are many traditions relating to the lake. One of the most famous tells that the hollow which forms the bed of the lake was created when the people known as Te Rapuwai came upon the giant tipua (ogre) Matau as he lay there in a deep sleep. Matau had been responsible for the disappearance of many small hunting parties and had entrapped a beautiful maiden, Manatā. The father of Manatā offered her in marriage to the man who could bring her safely home. Matakauri, who was in love with Manatā, ventured forth, discovering that Matau slept when the northwest wind blew. Matakauri selected a day when the wind was blowing the right way and set forth. He found Manatā and, using his mere, he attempted to sever the bonds which held her, but try as he would he failed. Manatā began to sob bitterly, and as her tears fell on the cords, they melted away. Matakauri carried Manatā back to the village where they became man and wife. However, Matakauri knew that while Matau lived no maiden was safe, so he set forth when again the northwest wind blew, and set fire to the large growth of bracken that acted as a bed for the giant. Matau was smothered in flames, the fat from his body augmenting the fire, until the blaze was so fierce that it burned a hole more than 1,000 feet deep. The snow on the surrounding hills melted and filled the hole, which is known today as Lake Wakatipu.

For Ngāi Tahu, traditions such as this represent the links between the cosmological world of the gods and present generations, these histories reinforce tribal identity and continuity between generations, and document the events which shaped the environment of Te Wai Pounamu and Ngāi Tahu as an iwi.

Whakatipu-wai-māori once supported nohoanga and villages which were the seasonal destinations of Otago and Murihiku (Southland) whānau and hapū for many generations, exercising ahi kā and accessing mahinga kai and providing a route to access the treasured pounamu located beyond the head of the lake. Strategic marriages between hapū strengthened the kupenga (net) of whakapapa and thus rights to use the resources of the lake. It is because of these patterns of activity that the lake continues to be important to rūnanga located in Murihiku, Otago and beyond. These rūnanga carry the responsibilities of kaitiaki in relation to the area, and are represented by the tribal structure, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

The lake also supported permanent settlements, such as the kaika (village) Tahuna near present-day Queenstown, Te Kirikiri Pā, located where the Queenstown gardens are found today, a Ngāti Mamoe kaika near the Kawarau Falls called Ō Te Roto, and another called Takerehaka near Kingston. The Ngāti Mamoe chief Tu Wiri Roa had a daughter, Haki Te Kura, who is remembered for her feat of swimming across the lake from Tāhuna, a distance of some three kilometres.

The tūpuna had considerable knowledge of whakapapa, traditional trails and tauranga waka, places for gathering kai and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of the lake, the relationship of people with the lake and their dependence on it, and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilisation of resources. All of these values remain important to Ngāi Tahu today.

A key attraction of the lake was the access it provided to seasonal campsites and the pounamu located at the head of the lake at the Dart and Routeburn River catchments, from which countless generations gathered inaka and koko-takiwai pounamu and transported it back to coastal settlements for fashioning into tools, ornaments and weapons.

Waka and mōkihi were the key modes of transport for the pounamu trade, travelling the length and breadth of Whakatipu-wai-māori. Thus there were numerous tauranga waka (landing places) on the lake and the islands upon it (Matau and Wāwāhi-waka). The tūpuna had an intimate knowledge of navigation, river routes, safe harbours and landing places, and the locations of food and other resources on the lake. The lake was an integral part of a network of trails which were used in order to ensure the safest journey and incorporated locations along the way that were identified for activities including camping overnight and gathering kai. Knowledge of these trails continues to be held by whānau and hapū and is regarded as a taonga. The traditional mobile lifestyle of the people led to their dependence on the resources of the roto (lake).

Whakatipu-wai-māori is an important source of freshwater, the lake itself being fed by hukawai (melt waters). These are waters with the highest level of purity and were accorded traditional classifications by Ngāi Tahu that recognised this value. Thus it is a puna (spring) which sustains many ecosystems important to Ngāi Tahu. The mauri of Whakatipu-wai-māori represents the essence that binds the physical and spiritual elements of all things together, generating and upholding all life. All elements of the natural environment possess a life force, and all forms of life are related. Mauri is a critical element of the spiritual relationship of Ngāi Tahu Whānui with the lake.

Purposes of statutory acknowledgement

Pursuant to [section 215](#), and without limiting the rest of this schedule, the only purposes of this statutory acknowledgement are—

- (a) to require that consent authorities forward summaries of resource consent applications to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as required by regulations made pursuant to [section 207](#) (clause 12.2.3 of the deed of settlement); and
- (b) to require that consent authorities, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, or the Environment Court, as the case may be, have regard to this statutory acknowledgement in relation to Whakatipu-wai-māori, as provided in [sections 208 to 210](#) (clause 12.2.4 of the deed of settlement); and
- (c) to empower the Minister responsible for management of Whakatipu-wai-māori or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as the case may be, to enter into a Deed of Recognition as provided in [section 212](#) (clause 12.2.6 of the deed of settlement); and
- (d) to enable Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and any member of Ngāi Tahu Whānui to cite this statutory acknowledgement as evidence of the association of Ngāi Tahu to Whakatipu-wai-māori as provided in [section 211](#) (clause 12.2.5 of the deed of settlement).

Limitations on effect of statutory acknowledgement

Except as expressly provided in [sections 208 to 211](#), [213](#), and [215](#),—

- (a) this statutory acknowledgement does not affect, and is not to be taken into account in, the exercise of any power, duty, or function by any person or entity under any statute, regulation, or bylaw; and
- (b) without limiting paragraph (a), no person or entity, in considering any matter or making any decision or recommendation under any statute, regulation, or bylaw, may give any greater or lesser weight to Ngāi Tahu's association to Whakatipu-wai-māori (as described in this statutory acknowledgement) than that person or entity would give under the relevant statute, regulation, or bylaw, if this statutory acknowledgement did not exist in respect of Whakatipu-wai-māori.

Except as expressly provided in this Act, this statutory acknowledgement does not affect the lawful rights or interests of any person who is not a party to the deed of settlement.

Except as expressly provided in this Act, this statutory acknowledgement does not, of itself, have the effect of granting, creating, or providing evidence of any estate or interest in, or any rights of any kind whatsoever relating to, Whakatipu-wai-māori.

Schedule 75: amended, on 20 May 2014, by [section 107](#) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (2014 No 26).

Attachment 5: Comments received from invited Māori groups

Comment received from Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki

Feedback ID	* FDB001693V7Q7
Title	* REQ002539/1S7 - Queenstown Cable Car
Regarding	Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki - Invitation to Comment - Queenstown Cable Car
Comments	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The whānau of Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki ('Puketeraki') have strong whakapapa linkages to Waitaha, Kāti Mamoe and Ngāi Tahu, nowadays collectively referred to as Ngāi Tahu. They, along with their whanauka from other Papatipu Rūnaka in Araituru and Murihiku, are a network of peoples closely connected by whakapapa, trade and their shared history who constantly traversed Te Wai Pounamu.</p> <p>Tūpuna had considerable knowledge of traditional trails, places for gathering food and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of the land, the relationship of people with the land and their dependence on it, and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilisation of resources.</p> <p>All of these values remain important to Puketeraki today.</p> <p>The whānau of Puketeraki, through their tūpuna have centuries' long customary associations and rights and interest in the Queenstown Lakes District and its resources. These associations are both historical and contemporary and include whakapapa, place names, mahinga kai, tribal economic development and landholdings. Puketeraki, alongside other Papatipu Rūnaka, has the customary authority to make decisions concerning the resources and places in their takiwā in accordance with Puketeraki resource management traditions.</p> <p>Traditionally the Lakes region of Otago has been important to Puketeraki whānui. Hapū would travel to pre-determined sites throughout the region to gather mahinga kai resources for their own use, as well as for trade. The hunting of birds, eels, the digging of fern root and ti root, and the gathering of taramea, and precious stone resources such as pounamu and silcrete, were the main focus of activity. Puketeraki and their fellow Papatipu Rūnaka had permanent and seasonal kāika (villages and campsites) around the interior lakes Whakatipu Wai Māori, Wānaka and Hāwea. A number of ara tawhito (trails) traversed the inland area of what is now the Queenstown Lakes District. The routes went inland from the coastal settlements of Otago and Southland up the valleys and passes, and returned following the waterways. The routes went inland from the coastal settlements of Otago and Southland up the valleys and passes, and returned following the waterways.</p> <p>The naming of the land and linking of the tribal whakapapa to the land and resources is the essence of the tino rangatiranga Puketeraki enjoys over the whenua. Puketeraki, alongside other Papatipu Rūnaka, has maintained its associations with the Queenstown Lakes District and continues to develop its economy through investment in tourism, landholdings and mahinga kai initiatives. Artworks, interpretation, stories and place names continue to reflect Puketeraki's contemporary identity in the built and natural environment.</p> <p>Manawhenua hold traditional customary rights and maintain contemporary relationships within an area determined by whakapapa (genealogical ties), resource use and ahikāroa (the long burning fires of occupation). These rights are traceable and defined by tradition, whakapapa and practice. Papatipu Rūnaka, such as Puketeraki, are the focus for whānau and hapū (extended family groups) who have Manawhenua status within their area.</p> <p>Feedback on the Referral Application</p> <p>Puketeraki, alongside other Papatipu Rūnaka, as mana whenua have entered into a Process Agreement with the applicant which provides arrangements for engagement and consultation in respect of the project, its effects and the proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>At the time of making this submission, arrangements for implementing the Process Agreement were being developed, and so consultation is embryonic.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the current status of consultation, due to their being a Process Agreement in place, Puketeraki is neutral in respect of the Applicant's referral application.</p>
Feedback Contacts	
Created By (Contact)	Shane Ellison

Attachment 6: Comments received from the Minister for Māori Development and Minister for Māori Crown Relations

Feedback ID	* FDB001797R9M6
Title	* Hon Tama Potaka Comment
Regarding	Draft section 18 report for Minister comment
Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none">I support the application progressing to the Expert Panel for substantive consideration subject to:<ol style="list-style-type: none">The expert panel consider whether the proposed activities will affect the following, pursuant to statutory obligations under Ngai Tahu Settlement act 1998:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Whakatipu-wai-Māori (Lake Wakatipu)Te Wairere (Lake Dunstan)Mata-au (Clutha River)The expert panel considers the impact of the proposal on taonga speciesI also encourage the applicant to continue to engage with all relevant Māori groups identified.

Feedback Contacts

Created By (Contact)	Bria Kerei-Keepa
Source	Portal
Application	Queenstown Cable Car
Created By	# Portals-Fast Track Portal - ftaa-portal
Created On	18/02/2026 8:16 AM