

MINUTE 16 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Record of Hui at Aaruka Marae

Central and Southern Block Mining Project [FTAA-2512-1153]

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY:	TASMAN TRANSCRIPTION
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DATE OF HUI:	17 JUNE 2026
AUDIO NAME:	TAHAROA C BLOCK INCORPORATED
TOTAL LENGTH OF AUDIO:	5:08
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[Start of Recorded Material: 0:07]

CHARITY EDWARDS: Tuatahi, e mihi ana ki a taatou e huihui mai nei. Ki aku ruuruhi, aku koroheke, aku huaanga. E mihi ana koutou me oo korero. Tautoko ana I ngaa koorero kua koorerotia e uncle, Taituwha uncle mino [? 0:25]. Moo raatou kua ngaro atu ki te poo. Whakaaro nui ana ki a raatou me ngaa whaanau pani e noho pani nei.

To the panel, it's really inspiring to see you bring all of your expertise to the table and to see your openness and your willingness to engage across the whole conversation.

Myself, Jaimee and one more committee member and obviously we acknowledge Ngahuia, who has recently been elected also, have really just come to listen, to understand. We haven't come to put our viewpoint into the conversation again.

As everyone here knows, Taharoa C has chosen to support the Application based on past decisions of previous committees to pursue mining or to support mining and to support applications previously. Again, we don't have any substantive comment to make, but we wanted to show face and we wanted to be very open and accessible and to be very clear that we are listening to the wider conversation and don't in any way assume to speak with a mana whenua voice, purely a landowner voice.

Sorry, I didn't even introduce myself. Ko Charity Edwards tooku ingoa. He uri noo kaawai whakapapa maha o teenei kaainga. He uri noo te Taahaaroo, noo Kaawhia hoki, noo Aotea hoki, and have come along as part of the committee. Teenaa taatou. He koorero aau?

JAIMEE PAENGA
TAMAKI:

Moorena. Ko Jaimee Tamaki tooku ingoa. Noo te uri o Tahaaroa Ruaputahanga. I'm just here in support of my kaimahi or my workmates and just to be, I think, sitting in the room listening to the whānau, front-footing it and making sure that we've got a wider scope on the kōrero that's happening here today. Kia ora e te iwi.

DAVE SERJEANT:

Thank you. We're very pleased to see you in the room and I have no questions for you.

LOU WICKHAM:

Can I just ask a dumb question to clarify the relationship between Taharoa C as the owner of the land and you lease the land, correct, or

*Taharoa C Block Incorporated,
transcribed by:*

could you just clarify for me and then do you receive royalties as well, but the mine itself is owned separately. Is that correct now?

CHARITY EDWARDS: Yeah, we can speak to that.

LOU WICKHAM: Thank you.

CHARITY EDWARDS: Ka pai. Taharoa C is a collective of many owners, over 2000 owners, that elects a committee of management for governance purposes. Since the '70s, the mine has been leased to a mining operator. Originally, New Zealand Steel. Throughout time, it's been Blue Scope, BHP. It's been different operators, but the whole time, same owner under the same lease.

LOU WICKHAM: Okay, so the mining equipment and everything is owned by someone else, but so you just own the land underneath it?

CHARITY EDWARDS: Yeah, that's correct. There was a period where we did own part of the mining operation, but we have since divested our interests in the mining operation.

LOU WICKHAM: When did that happen? It was 2017?

CHARITY EDWARDS: Yeah, 2017.

LOU WICKHAM: Thank you. Sorry, I just wanted clarity.

CHARITY EDWARDS: Ka pai.

UNIDENTIFIED

FEMALE: E mihi ana ki a koorua moo ngaa koorero kua koorerotia nei. Teenaa koorua.

[End of Recorded Material: 5:08]