



17 October 2025

Wellington International Airport Limited

Tēnā koe

Southern Seawall Renewal Project

Thank you for engaging with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (**PNBST**) regarding Wellington International Airport Limited's (**WIAL**'s) intention to apply under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 for approvals to construct and maintain the Southern Seawall Renewal Project (**Project**).

Summary

PNBST supports WIAL's application under the Fast-track Approvals Act for the Project, subject to the full and ongoing implementation of the agreed conditions and management plans. The continued involvement of and engagement with PNBST during implementation of the approvals will be necessary to ensure a sustainable, culturally appropriate approach to the construction and management of the Project.

Background

PNBST was established in August 2008 as the post-settlement governance entity for Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o te Ika (**Taranaki Whānui**). PNBST represents the interests of Taranaki Whānui, including through providing input on behalf of the iwi to projects such as this.

PNBST has previously outlined the significance of the south coast in cultural impact assessments prepared for WIAL's runway extension project. Those assessments set out the interests of Taranaki Whānui in more detail. However, a brief summary is provided below.

The Project area has a long cultural history, being associated with Kupe and early Polynesian explorers. Places such as Te Tangihanga a Kupe (Barrett Reef) and Rangitatau pā embody those founding stories and links to arrival in Aotearoa. There are two sites of significance in

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the Project area, which are Moa Point and Taputerangi Pā, however, both those sites are heavily modified today. Surrounding the Project area, there are other sites of significance, including Hue te Taka Peninsula, Tarakena Bay and Rangitatau pā. More generally, the Project area has been significant as a source of food, including moa and kaimoana.

In terms of our Treaty settlement, the Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika Claims Settlement Act 2009 provides a coastal statutory acknowledgement over the coastal marine area adjoining our area of interest. This includes the Project area.

The main objectives of Taranaki Whānui in relation to the Project are:

- To ensure that the environmental effects of the Project are appropriately managed and addressed.
- In particular, to ensure that effects on wildlife (including kororā) are well managed and addressed and that following construction, the area is reinstated in an appropriate manner.
- To ensure that PNBST is appropriately involved through the implementation of the Project, including that Project activities are carried out in a culturally appropriate manner, and opportunities for cultural expression are explored where possible.

PNBST has had the opportunity to review the draft conditions and is comfortable with WIAL's intended approach to manage the above matters. In particular, PNBST is supportive of the proposal for a mana whenua advisory group as provided for by the draft conditions.

The Application

PNBST understands that the Southern Seawall at Wellington International Airport has reached the end of its functional life. The Project will help safeguard the long-term operation of the Airport against natural hazards, increase the Airport's resilience to climate change, and reduce the (otherwise increasing) maintenance demands of the existing seawall.

Overall, the Project is expected to take 6 to 8 years, with the seawall construction itself taking 24 to 30 months.

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The Position of Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

PNBST acknowledges the importance of carrying out the Project to secure the long-term operation of the Airport.

We also acknowledge the engagement WIAL has undertaken with PNBST throughout the Project, including site visits, presentations, meetings and discussions. Following these engagement processes, we were offered the opportunity to prepare a cultural impact assessment for the Project. However, given that our interests in the area are already well covered by the previous cultural impact assessments and the engagement that has occurred, we have instead decided to provide this letter of support for the Project.

In particular, PNBST expresses its support for the implementation of the following conditions (and associated management plans):

- **Kororā** — establishing two kororā colonies, re-homing birds before the Southern Seawall works and training an iwi representative to assist with this re-homing process.
- **Terrestrial ecology** — specific measures to protect avifauna and lizards, implemented through the Avifauna and Lizard Management Plans.
- **Marine species** — specific protection and restoration measures in line with the marine ecology report.
- **Kōiwi tangata and taonga tūturu** — if archaeological material is discovered, the on-call protocol in the archaeological management plan will be followed.
- **Mana whenua advisory group** — an advisory group will be established before construction to facilitate ongoing involvement with mana whenua during Project implementation.

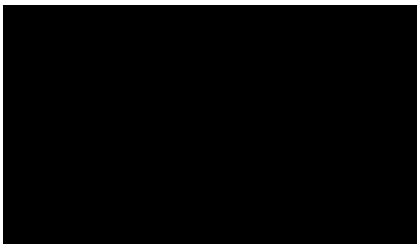
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Conclusion

This letter can be accepted as confirmation of PNBST support for the project and confirmation that all relevant matters (including cultural and environmental effects) have been appropriately addressed from a PNBST perspective, including in relation to our Treaty settlement.



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