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Our future in the sea - Toitu a tangaroa

Waikato West Coast Mussel Spat Nursery Critical Industry Infrastructure

Application for Fast-track Referral

North Western Mussels Limited

November 2025

Schedule B

Consultation Detail

1.0 Introduction

NWML have been undertaking consultation on the proposal since 2016, commencing with Waikato Tainui through Tainui Group Holdings (TGH). In 2018 NWML carried out pre-application engagement with Marine and Coastal Area Act (MACAA) applicants. Engagement continued as the application developed and leading up to lodgement of the application for a Private Plan Change and Concurrent Resource Consent (the RMA application) in May 2023.

During Fast-track Approvals Act (FTAA) engagement NWML have undertaken significant engagement with coastal hapū and the Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIO) Waikato Tainui and Te Nehenehenui. Through this NWML have made an offer to gift 20% of any consented space to coastal hapū outside any Crown aquaculture settlement obligation. NWML have also proposed an initial pilot stage of up to 82 lines from which some of that infrastructure will also be gifted to the coastal hapū entity.

Through engagement with Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) NWML have confirmed that the pilot stage will host a Māui dolphin monitoring programme undertaken by an independent marine mammal expert which can then inform future stages. NWML have strengthened the proposed Biosecurity and Marine Wildlife Management Plans and provided FNZ and DOC with additional information regarding potential effects of Māui dolphin. NWML have also agreed to liaise with the Waikato Regional Council (WRC), FNZ and DOC further on the proposal including on draft conditions prior to lodging a substantive application.

The following provides a summary of engagement prior to RMA lodgement, after RMA lodgement and under the FTAA as part of this referral application.

2.0 Relevant Local Authorities

NWML have been engaging with Waikato Regional Council (WRC) since inception of the project and have taken guidance regarding collation of information to support the application.

Prior to lodging the RMA application NWML consulted the WRC Harbourmaster regarding any potential navigation issues. The Harbourmaster responded that as long as the farm is appropriately marked and lit there are no apparent navigation issues relating to the sites.

Once the application was lodged NWML responded to all s92 further information requests and WRC confirmed the application was complete in December 2024. The Council made a decision to notify the application at its meeting on 23 July noting that NWML have requested that the application be placed on hold while this referral application is being made.

NWML wrote a letter to the Director Science, Policy and Information in late June formally advising of the intention to make this application. and seeking any comments to be provided by date.

NWML met with WRC representatives on 22 July, and it was agreed that the comprehensive suite of expert information means it is well suited for fast-track. WRC expressed satisfaction that the expert assessments support the finding that effects on Maui dolphin can be well managed. NWML agreed to send WRC a copy of

the application at the time of lodging and work with WRC on draft consent conditions if the project is referred.

The application has strong alignment with the Waikato Regional Aquaculture Strategy, and the Proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan.

Evidence of engagement with WRC is appended to this Schedule.

3.0 Relevant Iwi Authorities, Hapū and Treaty Settlement Entities

NWML has undertaken engagement with relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty Settlement entities since 2016. Various stages of engagement are outlined below.

3.1 Pre RMA engagement

NWML identified in the early stages of the proposal that there was a significant opportunity for partnership with iwi, particularly through Waikato Tainui. Numerous approaches were made in the lead up to finalising the RMA application.

In March 2023, prior to lodging the RMA application NWML emailed a copy of the draft application and an application summary to a group of contacts which had been provided by the Waikato Regional Council. The email was also sent to all MACCA applicants pertaining to the area. Recipients were as follows:

Tangata Whenua Group	Ngā Uri o Tamainupo ki Whaingaroa Trust
	Ngā Uri O Māhanga
	Ngāti Karewa Ngāti Tahinga Trust
	Ngāti Whakamarurangi
	Tainui o Tainui
	Waikato Tainui
	Ngā Hapū me Ngā Marae o te Takutai Moana o Waikato-Tainui
Marae	Mai Uenuku ki te Whenua Marae
	Mōtakotako Marae
	Poihākena Marae
	Pukerewa Marae
	Te Akau Marae
	Waingaro Marae
	Weraroa Marae
MACAA Applicant	CIV-2017-419-080: Iwi of Kāwhia , Aotea and Whāingaroa Harbours
	CIV-2017-485-207: Ngāti Apakura
	MAC-01-04-001: Kāwhia Tangata, Aotea Whenua, Whaingaroa Moana
	MAC-01-04-005: Ngā Tini Hapū o Maniapoto
	MAC-01-04-006: Ngāti Apakura
	MAC-01-04-012: Te Ruunanga o Ngāati Mahuta ki te Hauaauru
	MAC-01-04-014: Ngāa marae o te takutai moana o Waikato-Tainui
	CIV-2017-404-575: Ngāti Mahuta ki te Hauāuru
	CIV-2017-419-084: Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Inc
	CIV-2017-404-526: Ngā Tini Hapū o Maniapoto
	MAC-01-04-010: Ngāti Whakamarurangi/Tainui ie Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Motemote, Ngāti Tahinga
	MAC-01-04-011: Tainui Hāpu o Tainui Waka
	CIV-2017-419-080: Iwi of Kāwhia , Aotea and Whāingaroa Harbours

Key points of feedback during this timeframe included concerns over the industry need for the proposal, implications for customary fishing, and protection of taonga and ecological values.

3.2 Post RMA engagement

The finalised RMA application was sent to all Iwi/MACAA contacts at the time of lodging. NWML continued to express a keen willingness to meet with any representatives of hapū and marae in the region and discuss any concerns as well as identify shared values and explore potential partnerships. Offers were made for hui and field trips as well as the provision of open and transparent information about the application.

Some recipients responded but most did not. Views included:

- Ongoing concerns about unresolved customary marine title and fishing rights.
- Varied interest in partnerships and economic opportunities, with some groups focused on cultural and environmental protection, others open to further dialogue or site visits.
- Continued request for transparent information and desire for meaningful consultation, with NWML expressing continued willingness to facilitate engagement and partnership

3.3 Fast-track engagement

3.3.1 2025 preparation of the draft application

Since early this year NWML have undertaken an extensive programme of engagement with Iwi, particularly the coastal hapū of Ngāti Tahinga as well as the Mandated Iwi Organisations Waikato Tainui and Te Nehenehenui. Engagement has included numerous phone calls, emails and hui including attendance at two hui at Poihakena Marae and one at Pukerewa Marae.

Through this engagement NWML have made an offer to transfer ownership of 20% of any consented space to an entity created by the Waikato coastal hapū and marae who have mana moana over the water space NWML are seeking to use. This proposal sits outside the Crown's aquaculture settlement obligation for 20% of representative space.

The offer included that:

- *'We are offering you ownership to 20% of the total of mussel spat catching and nursery consent space we are granted by the Waikato Regional Council. This 20% is not conditional on you working with us after the consent is secured – you will own, outright, 100% of your 20% allocation. We are not requiring you to enter into co-governance, co-management, or a joint venture with North Western Mussels either before or after the granting of consent.*
- *Upon granting of the consent each party will individually have their own rights and responsibilities. If you would like to enter into a co-governance or co-management agreement with us for the environmental and consent conditions management, that would be a separate matter, and would be welcomed by us. This would be discussed independently of the 20% offer.*

Through the engagement Pukerewa Marae have confirmed that they will lead facilitation of engagement with NWML. The coastal hapū are currently undertaking internal discussions and most recently the Chair of Pukerewa Marae has acknowledged NWML's intention to lodge the referral application in November and confirmed the intent to reconvene with NWML at a hui early in 2026.

During engagement representatives of Poihakena and Pukerewa Marae signalled a willingness to undertake a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) if the coastal hapu consider this appropriate.

NWML have continued to engage with Waikato-Tainui (through Tainui Group Holdings) and Te Nehenehenui

and agreed to continue discussions subject to the views of coastal hapū. Waikato Tainui have confirmed full support of any direction coastal hapū choose to take.

3.3.2 Fast-Track Referral

Pursuant to s11 of the Fast-track Approvals Act NWML has consulted relevant iwi authorities, hapū, and Treaty settlement entities as follows:

3.3.2.1 Pre-application letters

Entity	Consultation	Response	Changes
Waikato-Tainui	Letters were sent to all groups on 26 June with a summary of the application, an offer to be provided a copy of the draft application and a request for engagement.	Te Hihi o Moerangi Marae oppose the fast-track application pathway, request the application be made under the private plan change pathway instead and that a cultural impact assessment be undertaken. A Tahinga Whaingaroa Moana Chief responded proposing a new set of conditions for the project to progress. These responses are appended to this Schedule.	No changes have been made to the application. NWML remains committed to providing coastal hapū with an opportunity for partnership in the activity including gifting 20% of the consented space.
Tainui Group Holdings			
Te Nehenehenui			
Ngāti Tahinga Poihākena Marae			
Ngāti Tahinga Pukerewa Marae			
Ngāti Tahinga			
Ngāti Tahinga Te Akau Marae			
Ngāti Tamainupō, Toa Kotara and Te Huaki, Waingaro Marae			
Ngāti Tahinga Weraroa Marae			
Ngā Uri O Māhanga Hourua o Tainui, Te Papa o Rotu Marae			
Te Poho o Tanikena Marae			
Ngāti Tamainupō			
Ngāti Karewa Ngāti Tahinga Trust			
Ngāti Whakamarurangi, Mōtakotako Marae			
Ngāti Whakamarurangi			
Oraeroa Marae			
Te Tihi o Moerangi Marae			
Te Papatapu Marae			
Mai Uenuku ki te Whenua Marae			
Ngā Hapū o Te Uru o Tainui Customary Fisheries Forum			

3.3.2.2 Coastal hapū hui

Entity	Consultation	Changes
Poihākena Marae	NWML attended a hui at Poihakena Marae on 2 February with a range of representatives of Ngāti Tahinga coastal marae. The attendees discussed the proposal in detail and NWML made an offer to host representatives to the farming operations in the Coromandel.	NWML offered to gift 20% of consented space to a coastal hapū entity, in addition to any aquaculture assets received under Crown obligations.
Ngāti Tahinga	NWML discussed the application and the 20% of space proposal with a representative of Ngāti Tahinga who hadn't been at the 2 February hui.	NWML followed up with further information.

	The representative provided further context to some of the views of coastal hapū and provided a contact list for the Chairs of the coastal marae.	
Poihākena Marae	NWML attended a hui at Poihakena Marae on 2 March with a range of representatives of Ngāti Tahinga coastal marae. NWML outlined the project's purpose and detail and the offer of 20% ownership for coastal hapū. The attendees engaged in wide-ranging and robust discussion and agreed to reconvene at a later date. Subsequent to the hui the applicant shared a range of application documents which were then passed on to all attendees as well as all the west coast marae Chairs.	No changes have been made to the application. NWML remains committed to providing coastal hapū with an opportunity for partnership in the activity including gifting 20% of the consented space.
Ngāti Tahinga	NWML and a Ngāti Tahinga representative discussed the proposal further in the context of each of the coastal marae including exploring where each sit in the context of the application sites.	No specific changes were discussed.
Poihakena Marae	NWML and a Poihakena Marae representative discussed the proposal further ahead of the planned hui at Pukerewa marae.	No specific changes were discussed.
Pukerewa Marae	NWML attended a hui at Pukerewa Marae on 13 September with a range of representatives of Ngāti Tahinga coastal marae. NWML outlined the project's purpose and detail and the offer of 20 percent ownership for coastal hapū including a two-year pilot, income from four lines, and transfer of a percentage of the pilot infrastructure to hapū ownership after the pilot. Discussion covered a range of technical matters such as site selection, environmental effects, spat sustainability, and biosecurity. Ngāti Tahinga requested financial detail, partnership terms, and sales assurances, which NWML agreed to provide. It was agreed that Pukerewa would coordinate further engagement with other coastal marae and the hui concluded positively, with agreement to continue consultation.	No changes have been made to the proposal. NWML remains committed to providing coastal hapū with an opportunity for partnership in the activity including gifting 20% of the consented space.
Pukerewa Marae	A follow up hui was arranged for mid October however this has been postponed while the coastal hapū undertake further internal discussions.	
Pukerewa Marae Chair	NWML has spoken to the Pukerewa Marae Chair and advised him of the reasons for lodging the referral application in November. The Chair acknowledged that the	NWML will continue to progress discussions, including through any further hui, as a matter of priority in the coming months.

	application was being lodged and agreed to reconvene a hui for early 2026 to further progress discussions. NWML reiterated that the commitment to ongoing engagement and partnership remains.	
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3.3.2.3 Waikato Tainui and Te Nehenehenui

NWML have undertaken further discussions with the Mandated Iwi Organisations (MIO) Waikato Tainui and Te Nehenehenui as follows:

Entity	Consultation	Changes
Tainui Group Holdings	NWML attended a hui with a representative of Tainui Group Holdings (TGH) on 30 January 2025. NWML gave a summary of consultation to date with the coastal hapū and the offer of 20% of consented space. TGH gave advice regarding further consultation processes.	No changes to the application were discussed.
Te Nehenehenui	NWML attended a hui with a representative of Te Nehenehenui on 12 February. The attendees discussed the Te Nehenehenui rohe moana and confirmed there is no overlap with the proposed sites. The attendees agreed to continue discussions as the application progresses. Follow up phone calls and emails were exchanged.	No changes to the application were discussed.
Waikato Tainui and Te Nehenehenui	NWML attended a hui in Hamilton on 12 August 2025 with representatives of Waikato Tainui and Te Nehenehenui in recognition that granting of the application will activate the Crown's obligation to initiate an aquaculture settlement with both entities. Waikato Tainui advised that they would support any position expressed by the coastal hapū.	No changes have been made to the application. NWML has kept Waikato Tainui and Te Nehenehenui informed as discussions with coastal hapū have progressed.
Waikato Tainui Planning Team	NWML provided the Waikato Tainui Planning Team with a share file of the WRC application and agreed to attend any hui facilitated by the team to discuss the application further.	No changes have been made to the proposal. NWML remains committed to engaging with the Waikato Tainui Planning Team as the application progresses.

3.3.2.4 Notification of application

Prior to lodging the application NWML had a conversation with the Chairman of Pukerewa marae including informing him the referral application would be lodged in November. During the conversation the Chairman agreed to convene another hui early in the New Year to progress discussions and to facilitate preparation of a Cultural Impact Assessment to be included with a substantive application. The NWML representative reiterated commitment to the 20% offer as well as ongoing engagement through the application process and beyond.

A follow up email confirming this discussion was sent to the Pukerewa Chairman on 11 November.

NWML remain committed to progressing discussions with coastal hapū in the coming months.

Waikato Tainui and Te Nehenehenui have been informed of the lodgement of this referral application.

4.0 Relevant Applicant Groups with Applications for Customary Marine Title

Prior consultation with groups with applications under the Marine and Coastal Area Act is detailed in section 3.0 above. Pursuant to s11 of the Fast-track Approvals Act NWML has since consulted relevant applicant groups with applications for Customary Marine Title as follows:

Application	Applicant	Consultation	Response	Changes
CIV-2017-419-080	Iwi of Kāwhia, Aotea and Whāingaroa Harbours	Letters were sent to all applicants on 26 June with a summary of the application, an offer to be provided a copy of the draft application and a request for engagement.	No responses have been received to date, but NWML is committed to ongoing engagement.	No changes have been made to the proposal.
MAC-01-04-001	Kāwhia Tangata, Aotea Whenua, Whāingaroa Moana			
MAC-01-04-012, CIV-2017-404-575	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mahuta ki te Hauāuru			
MAC-01-04-014	Ngā Marae o te Takutai Moana o Waikato-Tainui			
CIV-2017-419-084	Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Inc			
MAC-01-04-011, CIV-2017-419-083	Tainui Hapū o Tainui Waka - Whāingaroa Moana Collective			
MAC-01-04-010	Ngāti Whakamarurangi / Tainui ie Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Motemote, Ngāti Tahinga			
CIV-2017-485-207	Ngāti Apakura			
MAC-01-04-005, CIV-2017-404-526	Ngā Tini Hapū o Maniapoto			

4.0 Relevant Administering Agencies

For the purposes of this application the relevant administering agencies are the Ministry for the Environment (for the coastal permit under the RMA) and Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) (for undertaking the Undue Adverse Effects Test (UAE) on commercial, recreational and customary fishing). NWML have also undertaken engagement with other relevant agencies as set out below.

4.1 RMA engagement

NWML undertook engagement with agencies prior to lodging the application for Private Plan Change and Concurrent Resource Consent in May 2023.

Agency	Engagement	Outcome
Maritime New Zealand (MNZ)	NWML sent a copy of the proposed site plans and requested feedback on any potential navigation issues.	MNZ responded that as long as the farm is appropriately marked and lit there are no apparent navigation issues relating to the site.
Department of Conservation (DOC)	The proposal sits within Maui dolphin habitat and DOC's role in the Threat Management Plan for Hector's and Maui Dolphin (TMP) is to reduce risk to Maui dolphin to zero. NWML engaged with DOC marine mammal experts prior to making the application including exploring opportunities to contribute to the Maui Dolphin monitoring effort. Once the application was lodged in 2023 NWML provided DOC with all relevant information including the expert assessment, the WRC expert peer review, the draft marine wildlife management plan (MWMP) and the WRC expert peer review of the MWMP.	DOC provided a letter to NWML In January 2024 confirming its status as an affected party, outlining concerns from their ecologists regarding Maui Dolphin and concluding that they are <i>'open to working with the applicant should they be able to demonstrate that they can manage risks to our critically endangered species in a way that is consistent with other activity undertaken in the area'</i>. Once the application was lodged DOC sent a letter setting out the importance of a precautionary approach under Policy 3 of the NZCPS and that under Policy 11 adverse effects are avoided upon all indigenous taxa listed as threatened in the New Zealand Threat Classification System, including Māui dolphin. The letter concluded that <i>'based on the expert advice received, the Department is likely to oppose the applications as they are currently presented. We note that the Department is open to working with the applicant and reviewing this position should the applicant be able to demonstrate that they can manage risks to our critically endangered species in a way that is consistent with other activity undertaken in the area'</i>.
Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ)	NWML sent a summary of the application to FNZ prior to lodging the application	FNZ provided an email to NWML in May 2023 noting that: <i>'Sourcing wild spat for industry growth and resilience is consistent with both the Government's Aquaculture Strategy and the industry Mussel Spat Strategy and is an important component of a diverse mussel spat supply'.</i> <i>'We strongly encourage the applicant to thoroughly consider the risks posed to Māui dolphin in their application. This should be guided by, and consistent with, the Hector's and Māui dolphin Threat Management Plan (TMP), which guides management decisions related to Māui dolphins. The TMP has been developed through rigorous science working group processes and so any assessment that forms part of the application should at least undergo a level of rigour that is comparable to that of the TMP. Underlying the TMP is assessment of both risk and consequence'.</i> - FNZ also reiterated the importance of engagement with iwi.

4.2 Fast-track engagement

Pursuant to s11 of the Fast-track Approvals Act NWML has consulted relevant administering agencies and other agencies as follows:

4.2.1 Ministry for the Environment

Consultation	Response	Changes
NWML sent a letter to the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) in late June with a summary of the application, an offer to be provided a copy of the draft application and a request for engagement.	MfE provided a summary of national direction made under the RMA for the application to include assessment against.	N/A the application already included assessment against those instruments

4.2.2 Department of Conservation

Consultation	Response	Changes
NWML sent a letter to the Department of Conservation (DOC) in late June with a summary of the application, an offer to be provided a copy of the draft application and a request for engagement. DOC responded in early November and a meeting was arranged between NWML and a DOC RMA Planner.	NWML and DOC agreed to recommence development of a substantive application including on a set of draft consent conditions. DOC reiterated that engagement does not signal support.	No specific changes have been made as a result of this discussion but NWML are committed to ongoing engagement with DOC.

4.2.3 Fisheries New Zealand

Consultation	Response	Changes
NWML sent a letter to Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) in late June with a summary of the application, an offer to be provided a copy of the draft application and a request for engagement. An online meeting was set up for mid July.		
NWML and FNZ met on 12 July and NWML introduced the proposal and gave a summary of the process to date and details of the application.	FNZ acknowledged the importance of spat nurseries to realisation of the Government's Aquaculture Development Plan and signalled the need for further discussion on the effects on Māui dolphin. FNZ also agreed to coordinate input from Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ). FNZ followed up with a 'fact sheet' outlining FNZ's role in the Hector's and	NWML sent a follow up response regarding the TMP and the USMMA.

	Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan (TMP), and requirement for alignment with the US Marine Mammals Protection Act (USMMA).	
NWML met with FNZ including the Deputy Director-General on 9 October. NWML reiterated the dire situation for mussel farmers in the Hauraki Gulf, the urgent need for the spat nursery, and a willingness to work with FNZ to develop the proposal in a way that achieves alignment with the TMP.	FNZ acknowledge the importance of mussel spat nurseries and the urgent need for solutions. FNZ acknowledged NWML's position that land-based hatcheries will be important, and that NWML is progressing discussions on a hatchery but that the spat nursery is the absolute priority to meet the urgent need for resilient spat and seed and as a key component of the long-term strategy for diversity and productivity. FNZ were interested in understanding what research structures had been operating in the area already and the observations that there had been no interactions with Māui dolphin to date. FNZ were also interested in the potential for a monitoring programme to be carried out which could show alignment with the TMP. FNZ agreed to continue engagement as the application progresses.	NWML followed up the meeting by providing further information on the research structures as well as a copy of a report that NWML have purchased on visual and acoustic monitoring of Hector's dolphins in Golden Bay. NWML have amended the application to confirm the intention to undertake monitoring during the initial pilot of up to 82 lines. NWML have also amended the application to reiterate that land-based hatcheries will not surpass the need for premium spat catching and seed nursery space in the significantly more productive and cooler waters of the Waikato west coast.
NWML met with FNZ on 10 November to discuss the potential for a Māui dolphin monitoring programme in more detail including in the context of the Golden Bay report.	FNZ reiterated their position with regard for the need for alignment with the TMP.	NWML agreed to undertake further discussions with the marine mammal expert and liaise with FNZ further during development of the substantive application.

4.2.4 Biosecurity New Zealand

Consultation	Response	Changes
NWML sent a letter to Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) in late June with a summary of the application, an offer to be provided a copy of the draft application and a request for engagement. BNZ responded through FNZ as outlined above.	BNZ provided a set of recommendations to improve the application and Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP).	NWML has incorporated the recommendations into the application and draft BMP.

4.2.5 Maritime New Zealand

Consultation	Response	Changes
NWML sent a letter to Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) in late June with a summary of the application, an offer to be provided a copy of the draft application and a request for engagement.	MNZ reconfirmed their September 2023 response that as long as the farm is appropriately marked and lit there are no apparent navigation issues relating to the site.	N/A

Evidence of consultation with the relevant administering agencies MfE and FNZ is appended to this Schedule.

5.0 Other Consultation

The Waikato mussel farming industry has a critical need for a resilient supply of mussel spat and seed. Pare Hauraki Kaimoana (Iwi of Hauraki) are a key stakeholder in the industry and a joint venture partner with NWML. NWML undertook consultation with these parties prior to lodging the RMA application as follows:

Affected Party	Consultation
Pare Hauraki Kaimoana	Pare Hauraki Kaimoana, the fully-owned asset holding company of the Hauraki Māori Trust Board support the application noting that: - There are significant challenges around securing reliable sources of spat for the seeding of its mussel farms and the need to ensure the resilience and productivity of these farms. - More reliable, consistent, high quality sources of spat are needed if Pare Hauraki Kaimoana is to maintain its present production volumes, and greater spat volumes will be needed for Pare Hauraki Kaimoana to further develop its farms and allocated space. - In addition, there is a lack of nursery sites in the Waikato/Hauraki region, due partly to the constraint on new marine farming in the current Waikato Regional Coastal Plan, and the industry has few options available in the region for alternative growing locations to enable it to adapt and mitigate adverse environmental conditions and climate change. - A sea-based spat catching and nursery site in the cooler waters off the West Coast, as proposed by North Western Mussels Limited would be a strategic asset for the entire Waikato mussel farming industry.
Coromandel Marine Farmers' Association	- The mussel farming industry has a critical need for a sustainable and resilient supply of mussel spat and seed to ensure it meets its growth potential. The proposal will: - Support the growth of aquaculture for New Zealand - Strengthen the industry's Greenshell mussel spat supply - Build the resilience of the Waikato region
Aquaculture New Zealand	

No other parties have been identified as potentially affected to the degree that would warrant pre-application consultation, but NWML remain open to engagement with any interested parties as appropriate.

6.0 Key Ways Consultation has Informed the Project

Site Selection and Staging	Location and Staging: Feedback from iwi, hapū, and environmental agencies highlighted the sensitivity of Māui dolphin habitat. As a result, NWML adopted a staged development plan, which now includes a pilot of up to 82 lines and provision for monitoring and expert review prior to each further stage of development.
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	Monitoring and Adaptation: The staged approach allows for ongoing monitoring and adaptation of the project as it develops.
Environmental Management	- Marine Wildlife Management Plan (MWMP): Consultation with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and peer-reviewed expert advice led to the development of a comprehensive MWMP. This plan incorporates best practices and ongoing monitoring to minimise risks to Māui dolphins and other marine wildlife. The applicant has undertaken to re-engage with DOC on the proposal prior to the substantive application being lodged. - Maui Dolphin Monitoring and Management: Consultation with Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) led to discussions about how to prove that the nursery structures will not cause any Māui dolphin mortalities to ensure alignment with the US MMPA and the TMP. The applicant continues to propose that a comprehensive monitoring programme to be established in consultation with a Māui dolphin expert and has received a proposal to undertake monitoring for the first 'pilot phase' of up to 82 lines. Consultation with FNZ will continue prior to the substantive application being lodged. - Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP): Consultation with Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) resulted in amendments to the application document and the draft Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP).
Cultural and Customary Interests	- Iwi and Hapū Engagement: NWML's ongoing engagement with iwi and hapū resulted in offers of partnership, including the transfer of 20% ownership of any consented space to Waikato coastal hapū and marae. This offer was made unconditional, reflecting feedback about the importance of mana whenua involvement and self-determination. The offer has not progressed to any particular agreement, but NWML remain committed to the offer and will continue to engage as the application progresses. - MACAA Applicant Engagement: NWML have acknowledged and notified all relevant Marine and Coastal Area Act (MACAA) applicants, both during the previous RMA application process and in preparation of lodging this application for FTAA referral.
Navigation Safety	Input from Maritime Authorities: Consultation with the Waikato Regional Council Harbourmaster and Maritime New Zealand confirmed that, provided the farm is appropriately marked and lit, there would be no significant navigation issues. This will inform the design and operational protocols for the farm structures.
Industry and Community Benefits	- Industry Support and Needs: Engagement with industry groups such as Pare Hauraki Kaimoana and the Coromandel Marine Farmers' Association reinforced the critical need for a resilient, regionally sourced spat supply. This input underscored the urgency of the project and helped shape its scale and operational focus. - Community and Stakeholder Resilience: NWML continue to engage with coastal hapū to ensure that the project supports local employment, economic resilience, and provides the associated social and community benefits.

From: [Miffy Foley](#)
To: [Rebecca Clarkson](#)
Subject: RE: North Western Mussels Limited Spat Nursery – Fast-track Approvals Act Referral Application
Date: Thursday, 27 November 2025 10:11:19 am

Kia ora Rebecca

I can confirm that North Western Mussels Limited has undertaken consultation with Waikato Regional Council on their referral under the Fast-track Approvals Act.

Ngā mihi
Miffy Foley

Miffy Foley | TEAM LEADER - STRATEGIC AND SPATIAL PLANNING | Strategic and Spatial Planning, Science, Policy and Information
WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL | Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

s 9(2)(a)

F: facebook.com/waikatoregion
Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton, 3240

From: Rebecca Clarkson s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 27 Nov
To: Miffy Foley s 9(2)(a)
Subject: North Western Mussels Limited Spat Nursery – Fast-track Approvals Act Referral Application

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Waikato Regional Council. Do not follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Kia ora Miffy, thankyou for facilitating a meeting with the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) for North Western Mussels Limited to engage on their application for referral under the Fast-track Approvals Act.

Can you please confirm by return email that we have undertaken consultation with WRC as per the requirements of Section 11 of that Act?

Ngā mihi nui, Rebecca

Ngā mihi,

REBECCA CLARKSON | PRINCIPAL ADVISOR

s 9(2)(a)

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Tēnā koe Rebecca,

North Western Mussels Limited Spat Nursery - Pre-lodgement consultation under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA)

Thank you for your correspondence dated 27 June 2025 in relation to North Western Mussels Limited's intention to lodge a referral application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) in respect of the "North Western Mussels Limited Spat Nursery" project.

As you are aware, the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) is the "relevant administering agency" for approvals relating to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZ Act) under the FTAA.

We have received the information you provided on 27 June 2025. As part of your referral application, you will need to provide an assessment of the project against any relevant national policy statement, national environmental standards and if relevant the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. The Ministry has prepared the following summary on the national direction made under the RMA, for your consideration.

National Direction

Under the RMA, the government can create national direction to support local authorities' decision making under the RMA and develop a nationally consistent approach to resource management issues. This is typically done where an issue is of national importance, or involves significant national benefits or costs, or where necessary to give effect to other government policy or regulation. There are several types of national direction, including national policy statements and national environmental standards.

National Policy Statements (NPS)

National Policy Statements are instruments issued under section 52(2) of the RMA. An NPS is a vehicle for the government to prescribe objectives and policies for matters which are relevant to sustainable management. All National Policy Statements currently in force are published on the Ministry's website and links are provided in the table below. It is recommended that you consider the relevance of each NPS to your project. If you are seeking an RMA approval, then under section 13(4)(y)(i) and schedule 5 paragraph 2 of the FTAA your application must include an assessment of your project against any relevant NPSs. Refer to the National Policy Statements linked below.

National Policy Statement	Description
National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat 2023	This NPS provides nationally consistent policies and requirements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industries using process heat. It works alongside

	the National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gases from Industrial Process.
National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022	This NPS provides national direction to improve the way highly productive land is managed under the RMA. The objective is to ensure the availability of New Zealand's most favourable soils for food and fibre production.
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020	This NPS provides local authorities with updated national direction on how they should manage freshwater under the RMA.
National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023	This NPS provides direction to local authorities to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity requiring at least no further reduction in indigenous biodiversity nationally.
National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011	This NPS provides guidance for local authorities on how renewable electricity generation should be dealt with in RMA planning documents.
National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission	This NPS sets out the objective and policies for managing the electricity transmission network.
National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020	This NPS recognises the national significance of well-functioning urban environments. It removes barriers to development to allow growth in locations that have good access to existing services, public transport networks and infrastructure.
New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010	The NZCPS provides guidance for local authorities in their day-to-day management of the coastal environment. The NZCPS is the only compulsory NPS under the RMA.

National Environmental Standards (NES)

National Environmental Standards are regulations issued under section 43 of the RMA. They prescribe technical and non-technical standards, methods or other requirements for land use and subdivision, use of the coastal marine area and beds of lakes and rivers, water take and use, discharges and noise. NESs require each local authority to enforce the same standard in respect of these areas unless otherwise specified. All National Policy Statements currently in force are published on the Ministry's website and links are provided in the table below. It is recommended that you consider the relevance of each NES to your project.

If you are seeking an RMA approval under the FTAA, section 13(4)(y)(i) and schedule 5 paragraph 2 require that an assessment of your project against any relevant NES must be included with your application. Refer to the National Environmental Standards linked below.

National Environmental Standard	Description
National Environmental Standards for Air Quality	This NES prohibits discharges from certain activities and set a guaranteed minimum standard for air quality for people living in New Zealand.

National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry	This NES provides nationally consistent regulations to manage the environmental effects of forestry.
National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities	This NES sets out which electricity transmission activities are permitted, subject to conditions to control environmental effects. They apply only to existing high voltage electricity transmission lines.
National Environmental Standards for Freshwater	This NES regulates activities that pose risks to the health of freshwater and freshwater ecosystems.
National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat	This NES sets out nationally consistent rules for certain greenhouse gas emitting activities from industrial process heat.
National Environmental Standards for Marine Aquaculture	This NES replaces regional council rules for existing marine farms and provides a more certain and efficient process for replacing consents, realigning farms and changing farmed species. In some instances, they allow regional council rules to remain in force.
National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water	This NES sets requirements to protect sources of human drinking water from becoming contaminated.
National Environmental Standards for Storing Tyres Outdoors	This NES provides nationally consistent rules for the responsible storage of tyres.
National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities	This NES sets national rules regarding the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure across New Zealand.
National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health	This NES includes requirements for assessing and managing potentially contaminated soil.

Please ensure your application includes a summary of this consultation with the Ministry, and an explanation of how this consultation has informed your project. This information must be included in your application, regardless of whether it is a referral application or a substantive application for a listed project.

Thank you for consulting with the Ministry for the Environment as the relevant administering agency for the RMA and the EEZ Act.

If you have any queries in relation to the FTAA process, please contact info@fasttrack.govt.nz for further assistance.

Ngā mihi,



Acting General Manager, System Enablement and Oversight

From: [Sarah Cumming](#)
To: [Rebecca Clarkson](#); [Bridget Giesen](#)
Subject: Re: North Western Mussels Limited Spat Nursery – Fast-track Approvals Act Referral Application
Date: Thursday, 27 November 2025 10:36:37 am

Kia ora Rebecca

Confirming that you have consulted with Fisheries NZ.

Ngā mihi

Sarah

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From: Rebecca Clarkson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2025 10:04 AM
To: Sarah Cumming [REDACTED]; Bridget Giesen
[REDACTED]
Subject: North Western Mussels Limited Spat Nursery – Fast-track Approvals Act Referral Application

Kia ora both, thank you for facilitating meetings with Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) to engage on their application for referral under the Fast-track Approvals Act.

Can you please confirm by return email that we have undertaken consultation with FNZ as per the requirements of Section 11 of that Act?

Ngā mihi nui, Rebecca

Ngā mihi,

REBECCA CLARKSON | PRINCIPAL ADVISOR

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