

FAST-TRACK APPROVALS ACT 2024 – Substantive Application for Taharoa Central and Southern Block Mining Project

To: Mr. Dave Serjeant, Central and Southern Block Mining Project Expert Panel Chair
From: Te Nehenehenui
Date: 19 May 2026
Matter: Fast Track Application Central and Southern Mining Block [FTAA-2512-1153]

Response to Minute 10 of the Expert Panel Hydrology/Hydrogeology Peer Review: Scope of Work (16 May 2026)

Thank you for circulating Minute 10 and for allowing us to comment on the scope of work.

- Te Nehenehenui is grateful that the Panel has appointed Mr Kelsey to provide specialist hydrology input. This is a matter of significant concern to us.
- The Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022 defines a statutory acknowledgement area which includes the coastal area adjacent to Taharoa C Block and the Mitiwai and Wainui Streams.
- Broadly, Section 134 of the Maniapoto Claims Settlement Act 2022 reflects the responsibilities of Te Nehenehenui in respect of Ngā Wai o Maniapoto:
 - Te Mana o te Wai – prioritising the quality and integrity of water for present and future generations.
 - Ngā Wai o Maniapoto – the duty to restore, protect and enhance Maniapoto waters through active participation in decision-making.

Comments on the scope of work:

Te Nehenehenui is in the process of lodging its comments on FTAA-2512-1153. Our comments set out six areas of concern relating to hydrology. To summarise, these are:

- **Hydrological connectivity:** The water balance modelling treats all three lakes as a single hydraulic unit, assuming that they behave in a uniformly connected manner.
- **Abstraction monitoring:** We consider further assessment is required to better understand the impacts of more frequent high-demand drawdown events associated with ship loading.
- **Hydrological Modelling:** We suggest a peer review of the modelling with the specific purpose of setting parameters for more detailed and enforceable consent conditions.
- **Water intake screening:** We seek a reduction of the mesh screen size on the water intake system to 1.5mm to comply with the Waikato Regional Plan.
- **Effects on the Mitiwai Stream:** We are concerned that the mine water proposed to augment instream flows will reduce the instream water quality in the lower Mitiwai Stream. We suggest a peer review of the applicant's reports for the purpose of setting a minimum flow level for the stream with a buffer.
- **Setbacks:** We suggest larger setbacks are applied to increase certainty that adverse hydrological effects on wetlands and water bodies will be appropriately minimised.

We appreciate that paragraph [4] of Minute 10 may already encompass these matters. However, to avoid uncertainty, we respectfully request that the scope of work expressly includes the matters identified above to the extent they are not already captured.

Nāku noa, nā



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