
MINUTE 16 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Record of Hui at Aaruka Marae
Central and Southern Block Mining Project [FTAA-2512-1153]

(17 June 2026)

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to advise of the availability of the record of proceedings at Aaruka Marae on 8 June 2026.

[2] The Panel attended Aaruka Marae on 8 June 2026 as advised by previous minutes and heard position statements and commentary on the Central and Southern Block Mining Project application from mana whenua representatives. Taharoa C Block representatives attended but did not state a position or make comment on the application. The following persons and parties made presentations (in order of appearance):

- Tramaine Murray and Cathy O'Callaghan for Te Nehenehenui
- Charity Edwards and Jaimee Paenga Tamaki for Taharoa C
- Taituwaha King for Te Kooraha Marae
- Lloyd Hepi for Aaruka Marae
- Ngahuaia Herangi, Natasha Willison-Reardon, Jodi Whitiora-Te Uira, Jess Haunga, Fleur Passau for Taharoa Lakes Trust
- Teina Malone and Roy Wetini for Roy Wetini Whanau Trust¹
- Natasha Willison-Reardon, Tangiwai Christy, Pita PotoPou, and Christy Charmaine Nikora for Marokopa Marae
- John Kanawa and Verna Tutaeo for Maketuu Marae and Te Ruunanga o Ngaati Mahanga ki Kawhia

[3] The Panel advises that an audio-visual recording of the day's proceedings and all

¹ The Panel notes that one person speaking in support of the matters raised by Roy Wetini Whanau Trust did not want either their name or presentation recorded.

visual presentations made by mana whenua groups can be found here:

<https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/central-and-southern-block-mining/correspondence>

- [4] The Panel notes that the recording is of the presentations and does not include the formal welcome and closing from the Marae.
- [5] The Panel also advises that it has reconsidered the production of a transcript of the day's proceedings. We note the Applicant's request for this and examples of precedent for this in similar circumstances. Accordingly, a transcript is currently being obtained by the EPA and will appear on the Project website (same link as above) shortly.
- [6] The opportunity for the Applicant to respond to this record has been made by the Panel, and accepted by the Applicant.² The Panel also offers the opportunity for the Applicant to present that response by way of a Teams presentation, as well as or instead of the written response. The Panel requests that the Applicant advises of the option to be exercised and what time frame, after 22 June 2026, it considers achievable for that response.



Dave Serjeant
Central and Southern Block Mining Project Expert Panel Chair

² Memorandum of Counsel on behalf of Taharoa Ironsands Limited to the Expert Panel dated 5 June 2026

Agenda

10.00am - Powhiri / Whakatau

10.30am - Morning Tea

11.00am

Panel Welcome and Overview of the Day

- Introduction of Panel members
- Purpose of the hui
- Overview of the Fast-track Approvals process
- Decision-making framework and matters the Panel must consider
- Guidance on the types of korero that may assist the Panel
- Acknowledgement of the marae, whanau, hapuu and iwi for hosting the Panel

11.20am

Facilitated Session

- Overview of speaking order and process
- Melania Huaki -facilitator (acting for Julian Williams)

11.25am

Iwi and Governance Perspectives

- Waikato-Tainui Representative
- Te Nehenehenui Representative
- Taharoa C Block Incorporated

12.30pm - Lunch

1.30pm - Whaanau, Hapuu and Marae Koorero

Te Kooraha Marae

- Taituwha King
- Fleur Passau (supporting kōrero)

Te Ruunanga o Ngaati Mahanga ki Kawhia

- John Kanawa
- Verna Tuteao

Aaruka Marae

- Melaina Huaki

Taharoa Lakes Trust

- Ngahuia Herangi
- Nevada Huaki

Te Wetini Trust

- Taina Malone

Marokopa Marae

- Natasha Willison

4.30pm – 5.00pm (indicative) - Applicant Reply (provisional)

Closing Reflections

- Panel reflections and acknowledgements
- Final comments from hosts
- Karakia Whakamutunga

Please note that timings are indicative only and may be adjusted to allow sufficient time for kōrero and discussion throughout the day.