Before the Expert Panel

Under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**)

And

In the matter of an application for approvals by Taharoa Ironsands Limited to continue existing mineral sand extraction, including land preparation works, constructing a water supply reservoir, extracting ironsand material, processing extracted material, and transporting raw and processed material on 911 hectares at Taharoa Road, Taharoa, approximately 8 kilometres south of Kawhia and 45 kilometres northwest of Te Kūiti (**Central and Southern Block Mining Project**)

Memorandum of counsel on behalf of Taharoa Ironsands Limited to the Expert Panel

Dated 15 October 2026

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MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL

1. As you know, we act for Taharoa Ironsands Limited (**TIL**) in respect of the Central and Southern Block Mining Project at the Taharoa Ironsands Mine (**Application**).

2. TIL requests that the Panel exercise its discretion to suspend the processing of the Application in accordance with section 64 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**) for a period of 9 working days.

3. This is to provide sufficient time for TIL to address matters that have recently arisen in relation to the Application before the Panel is due to issue its draft decision and conditions, and to enable sufficient time for the Panel to consider that information before its draft decision and conditions are issued.

4. More particularly, the suspension is required so that TIL has sufficient time to:

   (a) Consider and respond to the air quality report prepared by Ms Freeman that was commissioned by the Panel and provided to TIL on Wednesday 7 October 2026. This report was provided after the due date of Wednesday 30 September 2026, meaning that TIL had no ability to respond to the report by the deadline previously directed by the Panel of Tuesday 6 October 2026;

   (b) Consider and respond to a further hydrogeology report prepared by Earthtech that was commissioned by the Panel and provided to TIL on Tuesday 13 October 2026; and

   (c) Respond to questions and requests for information, primarily relating to TIL's proposed resource consent conditions, which were raised by the Panel at TIL's presentation to the Panel on Tuesday 13 October 2026.

5. Further, the suspension is required because as it currently stands, the Panel's draft decision and conditions are due to be circulated on Monday 19 October 2026. TIL seeks an extension that will allow sufficient time for TIL to respond to the above matters, and to provide the Panel with sufficient time to consider TIL's responses, before it is due to issue its draft decision and conditions.

6. The Panel agreed with TIL at the presentation on 13 October 2026 that it should take the time necessary to respond to its requests and the relevant expert reports.

7. TIL seeks that the suspension take effect from midnight Friday 16 October 2026, with processing resuming on Monday 2 November 2026 (with the Panel's draft decision and conditions due that day).

8. TIL proposes to provide its response to Ms Freeman and Mr Kelsey's reports, and the further requests from the Panel made at the presentation by Friday 23 October 2023. This will provide the Panel with a week to consider TIL's responses before its draft decision and conditions are due the day that processing reconvenes.

9. TIL has no objection to the Panel, its advisers, or the EPA continuing work on the Application during the suspension period.

10. If TIL's request for a 9-working day suspension is approved the current timeframes would be amended (taking into account Labour Day), as set out below:

    (a) Processing would resume and the Panel's draft decision and conditions would be due on Monday 2 November 2026;

    (b) Comments on the draft conditions would be due on Monday 9 November 2026;

    (c) TIL's response to comments made by s53 parties on the draft conditions would be due on Monday 16 November 2026; and

    (d) The Panel's final decision would be due on Friday 20 November 2026.

DATED this 15th day of October 2026



Stephanie de Groot / Tom Atkins
Counsel for Taharoa Ironsands Limited