

Date: 17 February 2026

To: The Ministry for the Environment / Fast-Track Approvals
Secretariat

From: Southern Links 1 Tangata Whenua Working Group

Re: Southern Links Houchens Development – Letter of Support for the Archaeological Assessment of Effects

To whom it may concern

The Southern Links 1 Tangata Whenua Working Group (SL1 TWWG) confirms that it has reviewed the Archaeological Assessment of Effects (AAE) prepared for the SL1 Houchens Development.

SL1 TWWG acknowledges and accepts the archaeological findings contained within the AAE, including the recommendation that an Archaeological Authority be sought from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

SL1 TWWG further confirms that the recommendation within the AAE for early consultation with mana whenua has been satisfied through review of the assessment and preparation of the accompanying Mana Whenua Cultural Position Statement, which is to be read alongside the AAE.

While the AAE appropriately addresses archaeological matters, SL1 TWWG maintains that broader cultural considerations extend beyond recorded archaeological features. These matters will be progressed through:

- Development of the Archaeological Site Management Plan (ASMP) in consultation with mana whenua;
- Implementation of kaitiaki monitoring and discovery protocols;
- Preparation of the Cultural Values Assessment (CVA);
- Ongoing engagement in accordance with the SL1 Houchens Memorandum of Understanding.

Subject to the above processes being implemented as anticipated, SL1 TWWG supports the AAE and its progression through the relevant statutory processes.

This support does not fetter the exercise of statutory decision-making functions and is provided on the basis of continued engagement under the agreed MOU framework.

For and on behalf of the Southern Links 1 Tangata Whenua Working Group,

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Ngaati Wairere Taiao Trust

17 February 2026