



**Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust Written Response to Panel Convener
Convener's Conference - FTAA-2603-1178**

Date: 8 June 2026

To: Helen Atkins, Panel Convener (Fast Track Approvals)

From: Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust
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Introduction

1. Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust (**Te Uri o Hau**) acknowledges Minute 2 of the Panel Convener dated 21 May 2026 and welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback and participate in the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTAA**) process.
2. We acknowledge that the purpose of the convener's conference is to inform:
 - a) The appointment of panel members, and
 - b) The appropriate timeframe for the panel decision

Participants at the panel convener's conference

3. Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust is the mandated post-settlement governance entity established under the Te Uri o Hau Claims Settlement Act 2002 and Deed of Settlement, with responsibilities for protecting the cultural, environmental, economic, and Treaty settlement interests of Te Uri o Hau within its rohe.

4. The application is within the Te Uri o Hau area of interest rohe. We therefore request that appropriate weight be given to our Treaty settlement status and recognised mandate as an iwi authority throughout the Fast-track process.

Panel Composition

5. Te Uri o Hau considers it essential that the panel is appropriately qualified, balanced, and experienced, including:
 - a) Expertise in tikanga Māori and mātauranga Māori, and understanding of cultural impact assessments
 - b) Experience in archaeological and cultural landscapes, particularly where there is known or potential impact
 - c) Understanding of environmental systems, including climate change
 - d) Expertise in roading and transport infrastructure, including design, construction, and operational impacts, and working within culturally significant or archaeologically sensitive areas
6. Given the obligations under the FTAA to act consistently with Treaty settlements and iwi authority interests, panel composition must reflect the need for credible and competent consideration of cultural effects.

Timing for Decision

7. Te Uri o Hau considers that the procedural timeframes outlined in Schedule 1 should remain flexible and responsive to the final panel process, including sufficient time to resolve cultural, environmental, technical, and consent condition matters with the applicant.
8. Te Uri o Hau has the experience, technical capability, and cultural expertise to engage effectively in fast-track processes. However, shortened or default timeframes may not be appropriate where complex matters could impact Te Uri o Hau cultural values and interests.

Costing

9. Te Uri o Hau acknowledges the FTAA cost recovery framework and is continuing to work constructively with the applicant regarding participation, technical support, and engagement requirements associated with this process.
10. Te Uri o Hau reserves the ability to raise any additional participation, technical, cultural, or legal resourcing matters should they arise through the panel process.

Cultural and Environmental Considerations

11. Te Uri o Hau reiterates that the environment where the project site and works will take place is dynamic, particularly due to climate change, and that historical assumptions or agreements may no longer reflect current realities.
12. This reinforces the need for adaptive and robust decision-making processes, and sufficient time to assess future risks and cumulative effects.

Schedule 2 – Matters to Consider

13. Te Uri o Hau has reviewed the matters outlined in Schedule 2 and can provide preliminary feedback on approvals, complexity, issues, and mātauranga and tikanga matters at this stage.
14. Te Uri o Hau anticipates that any remaining matters, including detailed evidence and unresolved issues, can be addressed through the substantive panel process and hearing
15. **Approvals:** This application seeks multiple approvals across legislative frameworks, which indicates a high level of complexity and broader consideration across cultural, environmental, and regulatory matters. This is why it is necessary that there is a multi-disciplinary panel and a timeframe that supports integrated assessment
16. **Complexity:** Te Uri o Hau considers the application presents moderate to high complexity.

- a) *Legal Complexity* – This application has multiple statutory frameworks, so if there is a restricted timeframe there is potential for novel legal interpretation of this application and the impact for Te Uri o Hau’s treaty settlement.
- b) *Evidentiary Complexity* – This application has a high volume of technical and expert evidence that Te Uri o Hau will need time to resource peer reviews and prepare a response, there could also be potential for conflicting expert opinions.
- c) *Factual Complexity* – This application has complex and interrelated data; there are cultural values to be considered and environmental variability and climate change effects.

17. **Implications:** Compressed timeframes are unlikely to be sufficient, and additional time is required to assess cultural and environmental impacts with Te Uri o Hau and continue meaningful discussions.

Issues

18. Te Uri o Hau has had ongoing engagement and relationship with the applicant during the pre- and post-lodgement. Preliminary issues identified include cultural, environmental, and technical concerns. Some of the specific matters include, but are not limited to:
- a) Location, protection and avoidance of effects to wahi tapu and archaeological sites
 - b) Effects to waterways. There are a number of waterways impacted by the proposal some of which have significant cultural value
 - c) Identification, protection and management of taonga species in freshwater systems and terrestrial ecology.
 - d) Removal of indigenous vegetation including taonga species such as Kauri
 - e) Management of stormwater.
 - f) Ongoing access to waterways, wahi tapu and cultural sites for cultural practices.
 - g) Consideration of climate change impacts.

- h) Amenity, noise and light effects.

Mātauranga Māori

- 19. Mātauranga Māori is directly relevant to this application due to the cultural significance of the project area to Te Uri o Hau as mana whenua.
- 20. Te Uri o Hau requests appropriate protection of sensitive cultural information, including wāhi tapu, wāhi taonga, and mātauranga Māori. Portions of the Te Uri o Hau Cultural Values and Impact report were redacted to protect sensitive cultural information from public disclosure.
- 21. Te Uri o Hau supports direct engagement processes, including hui, wānanga, and site visits, to assist the panel in understanding cultural values and site-specific matters where appropriate.

Tikanga Māori

- 22. Tikanga Māori is relevant to this application, including whakapapa-based relationships and overlapping cultural interests across the project area. Where matters are unable to be resolved, Te Uri o Hau will provide direction to the Panel on the most appropriate pathway to address tikanga, including but not limited to conferencing with relevant parties or how the applicant can support the process.
- 23. Te Uri o Hau wish for the Panel to sit at Kaiwaka or Te Hana to hear the cultural evidence and hear from relevant uri about the significance of these places to us.

Conclusion

- 24. The following matters are identified by Te Uri o Hau as requiring particular weight and consideration throughout the Fast-track process.
 - a) Te Uri o Hau is a mandated post-settlement governance entity and mana whenua within the project area.

- b) Mātauranga Māori, tikanga Māori, wāhi tapu, waterways, taonga species, and cultural landscapes require appropriate recognition and protection throughout the process.
- c) Te Uri o Hau has engaged constructively with the applicant throughout the development of the proposal.

25. In direct response to memo.

- a) Procedural timeframes should remain flexible to allow meaningful engagement and refinement of consent conditions where required.
- b) Panel members should have demonstrated expertise in tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori, and cultural impact assessment.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Alyssce Te Huna, RMA Manager
Environs Te Uri o Hau