

Date: 22nd September 2026

To: Geoff Burgess & Jake Bartrom
Directors / Representatives
North Western Mussels Limited (NWML)

From: The Representatives of Ngaa Marae o Tahinga

Teenaa koorua Geoff raaua ko Jake,

Re: Response to Letter of Intent – Northwestern Mussels Limited Commitments to Ngaati Tahinga

Ngaa Marae o Tahinga acknowledges receipt of your Letter of Intent (LOI) dated 7 September 2026 regarding Northwestern Mussels Limited's commitments to Ngaati Tahinga in relation to your consent application for the proposed mussel spat nursery operation off the Whaaingarua/Raglan coast.

We welcome NWML's ongoing recognition of the Oati signed in July 2026. The values recorded in our Oati—*manaakitanga*, *whakapono*, *rangimaarie*, *whakaiti*, *aroha*, *mahi tahi*, and *kotahitanga*—remain the bedrock of this relationship. We also appreciate your explicit acknowledgement of our cultural, environmental, and customary responsibilities, and our enduring kaitiakitanga across te taiao and Tangaroa.

Ngaa Marae o Tahinga confirms its support in principle for the core commercial, capability, and community commitments outlined in your letter:

1. **Gift of Consented Aquaculture Space:** We note and accept the commitment that, upon grant of consent, NWML will gift an entitlement of 20% of the consented space to a nominated Ngaati Tahinga entity, and we acknowledge that this voluntary commercial arrangement stands separate from Crown settlement mechanisms under the Maaori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004.
2. **Gift of Developed Infrastructure:** We accept the transfer of five developed spat catching/nursery longlines installed during Stage One, subject to finalizing terms governing operational handover, maintenance, health and safety, and regulatory compliance.
3. **Education, Practical Training & Capability:** We welcome the proactive framework to build practical industry knowledge and exposure for our people across nursery operations prior to broader commercial decision-making.
4. **Employment Pathways:** We acknowledge your commitment to prioritise notifications of employment opportunities and to work collaboratively on training-to-employment pipelines for our whaanau.



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Next Steps & Progression to Formal Agreements

To give practical and binding effect to these intentions as the consent process progresses, we propose establishing a small joint working group to advance the following workstreams:

- **Entity Structuring & Governance:** Confirming the appropriate receiving legal entity representing Ngaa Marae o Tahinga to hold the 20% aquaculture space entitlement and infrastructure assets.
- **Commercial & Operational Documentation:** Drafting the formal Infrastructure Transfer Agreement, Licence/Operating Agreements, and relevant terms of engagement.
- **Capability & Workforce Blueprint:** Co-designing an operational schedule for the training placements and local recruitment pathways ahead of Stage One deployment.
- **Kaitiakitanga & Environmental Monitoring Protocols:** Aligning environmental reporting and monitoring touchpoints with the marae to uphold our customary duties to Tangaroa alongside commercial operations.

Ngaa mihi nui, naa



Maungarongo Tito

Representative / Mandated Signatory

For and on behalf of Ngaa Marae o Tahinga



Michelle Flavell

Representative / Mandated Signatory

For and on behalf of Ngaa Marae o Tahinga



Matekino Marshall

Representative / Mandated Signatory

For and on behalf of Ngaa Marae o Tahinga

Title	Response to Letter of Intent – Northwestern Mussels...
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09 / 24 / 2026

08:09:55 UTC

Sent for signature to Maungarongo Tito

[REDACTED], Michelle Flavell

[REDACTED] and Matekino Marshall

[REDACTED] from [REDACTED]

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08:12:55 UTC

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08:13:23 UTC

Signed by Matekino Marshall [REDACTED]

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09:30:39 UTC

Viewed by Maungarongo Tito [REDACTED]

IP: 49.224.111.213



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