Te Rūnanga o NGĀI TAHU

27 October 2026

Expert Panel
FTAA-2605-1236: Remarkables Ski Area Upgrades and Doolans Expansion
C/- Fast-track team
WELLINGTON

Tēnā koutou,

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu comments on Remarkables Ski Area Upgrades and Doolans Expansion (FTAA-2605-1236) under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

1 Introduction

1.1 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (**Te Rūnanga**) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 on the application made by NZ Ski Limited (the **Applicant**) for the Remarkables Ski Area Upgrades and Doolans Expansion, within the Remarkables Range (Kawarau), near Queenstown (the **Application**).

1.2 Te Rūnanga supports the comments made by Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, Hokonui Rūnanga, Waihōpai Rūnaka, Te Rūnanga o Ōraka-Aparima and Te Rūnanga o Awarua (**Kā Rūnaka**). These further comments are intended to provide additional context for the Expert Panel's awareness and consideration.

2 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

2.1 Te Rūnanga is the statutorily recognised representative tribal body of Ngāi Tahu Whānui, as provided by section 15 of the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 (**TRONT Act**).

2.2 Te Rūnanga encompasses five hapū, Kati Kurī, Ngāti Irakehu, Kati Huirapa, Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki, Ngāi Tūāhuriri and 18 Papatipu Rūnanga, who uphold the mana whenua and mana moana of their respective rohe.

2.3 Ngāi Tahu holds and exercises rangatiratanga within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā (see **Appendix One**). The Takiwā covers most of Te Waipounamu and its surrounding islands, constituting over half of New Zealand's landmass, coastlines and waterways. The Crown and Parliament recognise and affirm Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga in our Takiwā through:

a) Article II of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (**Te Tiriti**);

b) the 1997 Deed of Settlement between Ngāi Tahu and the Crown; and

c) the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (**NTCSA**).

2.4 As recorded in the Crown Apology to Ngāi Tahu (see **Appendix Two**), the Ngāi Tahu Settlement marked a turning point, and the beginning of a "new age of co-operation". The Crown apologised for its "past failures to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana over the South Island lands within its boundaries" and confirmed that "it recognises Ngāi Tahu as the tāngata whenua of, and as holding rangatiratanga within, the Takiwā of Ngāi Tahu Whānui". Those commitments are fundamental to the fast-track regime.

2.5 Te Rūnanga requests that the Expert Panel accord these comments with the status and weight of the tribal collective of Ngāi Tahu Whānui comprising over 90,000 registered iwi members.

3 Comments

3.1 Our comments on the Application are set out below:

Ngāi Tahu Settlement Statutory Acknowledgement, Nohoanga and cultural redress

3.2 The Application is within the Whakatipu-Kawarau Landscape. The significance of this landscape to Ngāi Tahu has been recognised within the NTCSA. This recognition includes:

a) the Whakatipu-wai-māori (Lake Whakatipu) Statutory Acknowledgement Area;

b) the Wye Creek Nohoanga Entitlement; and

c) cultural redress – through the establishment of the Whatatōrere Historic Reserve.

3.3 The association of Ngāi Tahu with Whakatipu-wai-māori is detailed in Schedule 75 of the NTCSA (refer to **Appendix Three**). These associations include important Ngāi Tahu histories and traditions that reinforce tribal identity and links. Schedule 75 records the history of Ngāi Tahu occupation of the Whakatipu-Kawarau Area, the presence of kāika (villages), and pounamu trails, associated with the lake.

3.4 Further, Schedule 75 outlines that the area is important for mahinga kai. Knowledge of the traditional trails, tauranga waka, utilisation of resources associated with the area and the relationship of people with Whakatipu-Kawarau, continue to be held by whānau and hapū and remain important today.

3.5 While not a comprehensive list, Schedule 97 of the NTCSA lists a number of bird, flora and fish species considered taonga.

3.6 The importance of the lakes and wider area for mahinga kai has also been recognised in other settlement provisions, such as through the allocation of land for the Wye Creek Nohoanga Entitlement. Under the Settlement, Nohoanga Entitlements are to enable Ngāi Tahu Whānui to temporarily occupy land (camp) close to water ways, to have access to the surrounding areas for fishing and gathering of natural resources, following in the traditions of Ngāi Tahu Tīpuna.

3.7 The Kawarau River was an important trail linking the Mata-au (Clutha River) catchment with Whakatipu-wai-māori, surrounding lands and Murihiku. As part of cultural redress provided through the NTSCA, the land at Kawarau Gorge was declared a reserve, vested in Te Rūnanga and renamed Whatatōrere Historic Reserve.[1]

[1] Section 156 of the NTCSA.

3.8 These settlement arrangements recognise the enduring relationship of Ngāi Tahu with this area and landscape and its cultural, historical, contemporary and customary values. It is important that the significance of this area to Ngāi Tahu is recognised and acknowledged by the Expert Panel and reflected in the decision on the Application.

Ngāi Tahu Settlement Taonga Species

3.9 The special association Ngāi Tahu has with taonga species within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā has been acknowledged by the Crown in the NTCSA[2], with a list of taonga species provided in Schedule 97 and Schedule 98 (refer to **Appendix Four**).

3.10 The Application identifies a number of species that are listed in Schedule 97, for example:

- Kārearea (NZ Falcon);
- Pihoihoi (NZ Pipit);
- Kea;
- Pūtakitaki (Paradise shelduck);
- Kāhu (Australasian Harrier);
- Wīwī (Rushes – *all Indigenous Juncus spp. and J. maritimus*); and
- Taramea (Speargrass – *Aciphylla spp*.).

3.11 The Department of Conservation section 51 report identifies potential adverse effects on these species and other taonga species, and the alpine and wetland ecosystems that support them. Kā Rūnaka comments emphasise that effects on taonga species should be assessed in both ecological and cultural terms, reflecting their significance to Ngāi Tahu.

3.12 Those species listed in the Settlement do not include all species Ngāi Tahu considers taonga. Many species are considered taonga for their mahinga kai value. As indicated in the Settlement provisions above, comments by Rūnanga and the Treaty Rights and Interests Statement, a number of taonga species within the area were utilised for mahinga kai.

3.13 It is important that the significance of taonga species to Ngāi Tahu is recognised and acknowledged by the Expert Panel and reflected in the decision on the Application.

Right of First Refusal

3.14 Te Rūnanga supports the concerns raised by Kā Rūnaka in relation to the Right of First Refusal provisions under the NTCSA. Although the Application concludes that the proposed concession term does not engage the statutory Right of First Refusal provisions, the Expert Panel should have regard to the broader Ngāi Tahu Settlement context and ensure that the intent and practical benefit of Ngāi Tahu Settlement rights and interests associated with Crown conservation land are recognised and maintained in its consideration of the Application.

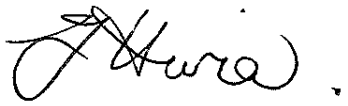
[2] Section 288 of the NTCSA. Ngāi Tahu association includes cultural, spiritual, historic, and traditional.

4 Decision

4.1 Te Rūnanga thanks the Expert Panel for the opportunity to comment on the Application.

4.2 Te Rūnanga seeks that appropriate consideration is given to the provided comments, including the comments provided on behalf of Kā Rūnaka.

Nāku noa nā,



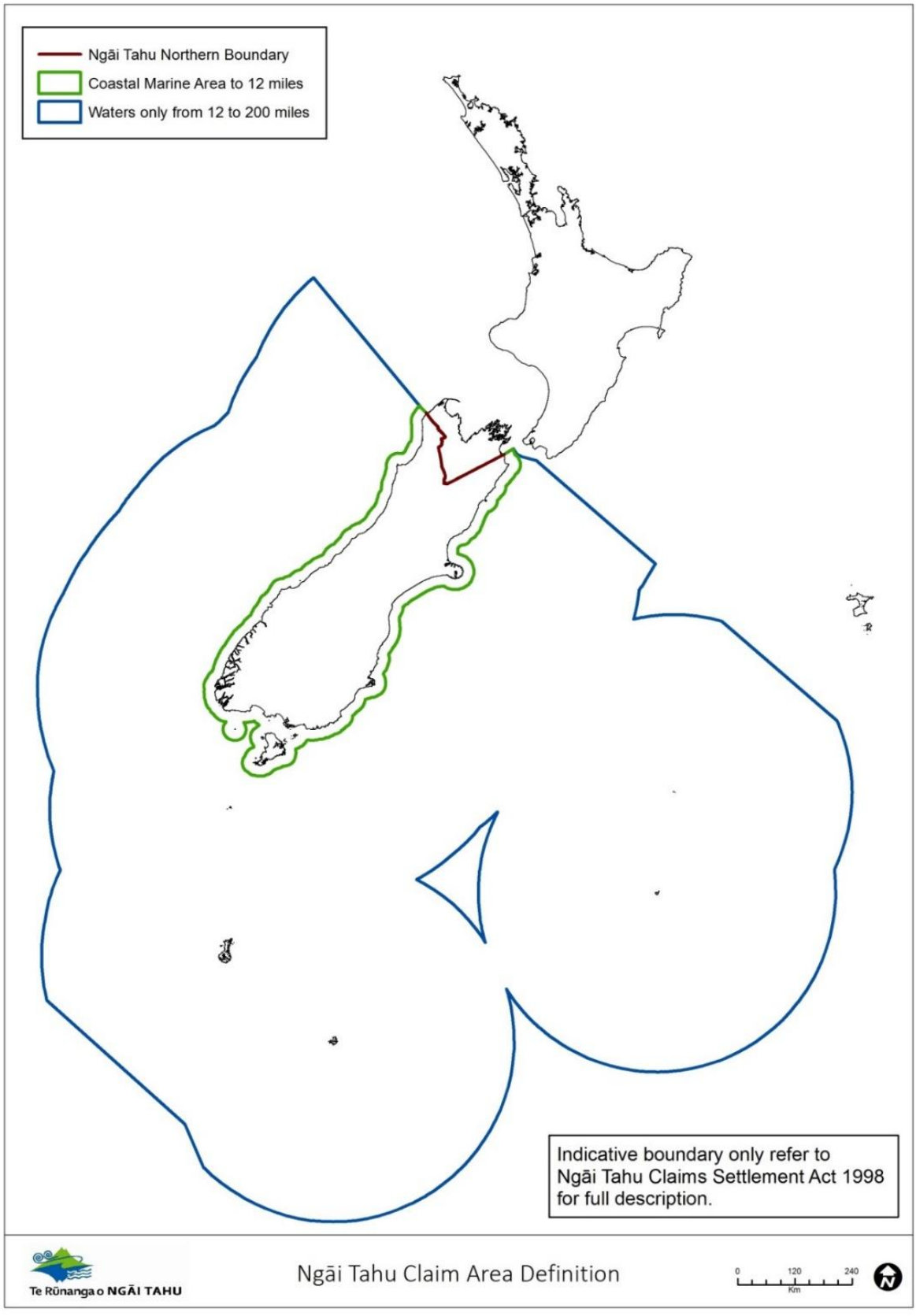
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Appendices:
Appendix One – Map of takiwā of Ngāi Tahu
Appendix Two – Crown Apology to Ngāi Tahu
Appendix Three – Statutory Acknowledgements - Whakatipu-wai-Māori
Appendix Four – Taonga Species

APPENDIX ONE: NGĀI TAHU TAKIWĀ



APPENDIX TWO: TEXT OF CROWN APOLOGY

The following is text of the Crown apology contained in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Part One – Apology by the Crown to Ngāi Tahu

Section 5: Text in Māori
The text of the apology in Māori is as follows:

1. Kei te mōhio te Karauna i te tino roa o ngā tūpuna o Ngāi Tahu e totohe ana kia utu mai rātou e te Karauna—tata atu ki 150 ngā tau i puta ai tēnei pēpeha a Ngāi Tahu arā: "He mahi kai tākata, he mahi kai hoaka". Nā te whai mahara o ngā tūpuna o Ngāi Tahu ki ngā āhuatanga o ngā kawenga a te Karauna i kawea ai e Matiaha Tiramōrehu tana petihana ki a Kuini Wikitoria i te tau 1857. I tuhia e Tiramōrehu tana petihana arā: 'Koia nei te whakahau a tōu aroha i whiua e koe ki runga i ēnei kāwana... tērā kia whakakotahitia te ture, kia whakakotahitia ngā whakahau, kia ōrite ngā āhuatanga mō te kiri mā kia rite ki tō te kiri waitutu, me te whakatakoto i te aroha o tōu ngākau pai ki runga i te iwi Māori kia noho ngākau pai tonu ai rātou me te mau mahara tonu ki te mana o tōu ingoa.' Nā konei te Karauna i whakaae ai tērā, te taumaha o ngā mahi a ngā tūpuna o Ngāi Tahu, nā rēira i tū whakaiti atu ai i nāianei i mua i ā rātou mokopuna.

2. E whakaae ana te Karauna ki tōna tino hēanga, tērā i takakino tāruaruatia e ia ngā kaupapa o te Tiriti o Waitangi i roto i āna hokonga mai i ngā whenua o Ngāi Tahu. Tēnā, ka whakaae anō te Karauna tērā i roto i ngā āhuatanga i takoto ki roto i ngā pukapuka ā-herenga whakaatu i aua hokonga mai, kāore te Karauna i whai whakaaro ki tāna hoa nā rāua rā i haina te Tiriti, kāore hoki ia I whai whakaaro ki te wehe ake i ētahi whenua hei whai oranga tinana, whai oranga ngākau rānei mō Ngāi Tahu.

3. E whakaae ana te Karauna tērā, i roto i tāna takakino i te wāhanga tuarua o te Tiriti, kāore ia i whai whakaaro ki te manaaki, ki te tiaki rānei i ngā mauanga whenua a Ngāi Tahu me ngā tino taonga i hiahia a Ngāi Tahu ki te pupuri.

4. E mōhio ana te Karauna tērā, kāore ia i whai whakaaro ki a Ngāi Tahu i runga I te ngākau pono o roto i ngā tikanga i pūtake mai i te mana o te Karauna. Nā tāua whakaaro kore a te Karauna i puaki mai ai tēnei pēpeha a Ngāi Tahu: "Te Hapa o Niu Tīreni". E mōhio ana te Karauna i tāna hē ki te kaipono i ngā āhuatanga whai oranga mō Ngāi Tahu i noho pōhara noa ai te iwi ia whakatupuranga heke iho. Te whakatauākī i pūtake mai i aua āhuatanga: "Te mate o te iwi".

5. E whakaae ana te Karauna tērā, mai rāno te piri pono o Ngāi Tahu ki te Karauna me te kawa pono a te iwi i ā rātou kawenga i raro i te Tiriti o Waitangi, pērā anō tō rātou piri atu ki raro i te Hoko Whitu a Tū i ngā wā o ngā pakanga nunui o te ao. E tino mihi ana te Karauna ki a Ngāi Tahu mō tōna ngākau pono mō te koha hoki a te iwi o Ngāi Tahu ki te katoa o Aotearoa.

6. E whakapuaki atu ana te Karauna ki te iwi whānui o Ngāi Tahu i te hōhonu o te āwhitu a te Karauna mō ngā mamaetanga, mō ngā whakawhiringa i pūtake mai nō roto i ngā takakino a te Karauna i takaongetia ai a Ngāi Tahu Whānui. Ewhakaae ana te Karauna tērā, aua mamaetanga me ngā whakawhiringa hoki I hua mai nō roto i ngā takakino a te Karauna, arā, kāore te Karauna i whai i ngā tohutohu a ngā pukapuka ā-herenga i tōna hokonga mai i ngā whenua o Ngāi Tahu, kāore hoki te Karauna i wehe ake kia rawaka he whenua mō te iwi, hei whakahaere mā rātou i ngā āhuatanga e whai oranga ai rātou, kāore hoki te Karauna

i hanga i tētahi tikanga e maru motuhake ai te mana o Ngāi Tahu ki runga i ā rātou pounamu me ērā atu tāonga i hiahia te iwi ki te pupuri. Kore rawa te Karauna i aro ake ki ngā aurere a Ngāi Tahu.

7. E whakapāha ana te Karauna ki a Ngāi Tahu mō tōna hēanga, tērā, kāore ia I whai whakaaro mō te rangatiratanga o Ngāi Tahu, ki te mana rānei o Ngāi Tahu ki runga i ōna whenua ā-rohe o Te Wai Pounamu, nā rēira, i runga i ngā whakaritenga me ngā herenga a Te Tiriti o Waitangi, ka whakaae te Karauna ko Ngāi Tahu Whānui anō te tāngata whenua hei pupuri i te rangatiratanga o roto I ōna takiwā.

8. E ai mō ngā iwi katoa o Aotearoa e hiahia ana te Karauna ki te whakamārie I ngā hara kua whākina ake nei—otirā, ērā e taea i nāianei - i te mea kua āta tau ngā kōrero tūturu ki roto i te pukapuka ā-herenga whakaritenga i hainatia i te 21 o ngā rā o Whitu hei tīmatanga whai oranga i roto i te ao hōu o te mahinga tahi a te Karauna rāua ko Ngāi Tahu.

Section 6: Text in English

The text of the apology in English is as follows:

1. The Crown recognises the protracted labours of the Ngāi Tahu ancestors in pursuit of their claims for redress and compensation against the Crown for nearly 150 years, as alluded to in the Ngāi Tahu proverb ‘He mahi kai takata, he mahi kai hoaka’ (‘It is work that consumes people, as greenstone consumes sandstone’). The Ngāi Tahu understanding of the Crown's responsibilities conveyed to Queen Victoria by Matiaha Tiramorehu in a petition in 1857, guided the Ngāi Tahu ancestors. Tiramorehu wrote:

   “‘This was the command thy love laid upon these Governors … that the law be made one, that the commandments be made one, that the nation be made one, that the white skin be made just equal with the dark skin, and to lay down the love of thy graciousness to the Māori that they dwell happily … and remember the power of thy name.”

2. The Crown hereby acknowledges the work of the Ngāi Tahu ancestors and makes this apology to them and to their descendants.

3. The Crown acknowledges that it acted unconscionably and in repeated breach of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in its dealings with Ngāi Tahu in the purchases of Ngāi Tahu land. The Crown further acknowledges that in relation to the deeds of purchase it has failed in most material respects to honour its obligations to Ngāi Tahu as its Treaty partner, while it also failed to set aside adequate lands for Ngāi Tahu's use, and to provide adequate economic and social resources for Ngāi Tahu.

4. The Crown acknowledges that, in breach of Article Two of the Treaty, it failed to preserve and protect Ngāi Tahu's use and ownership of such of their land and valued possessions as they wished to retain.

5. The Crown recognises that it has failed to act towards Ngāi Tahu reasonably and with the utmost good faith in a manner consistent with the honour of the Crown. That failure is referred to in the Ngāi Tahu saying ‘Te Hapa o Niu Tireni!’ (‘The unfulfilled promise of New Zealand’). The Crown further recognises that its failure always to act in good faith deprived Ngāi Tahu of the opportunity to develop and kept the tribe for several generations in a state of poverty, a state referred to in the proverb ‘Te mate o te iwi’ (‘The malaise of the tribe’).

6. The Crown recognises that Ngāi Tahu has been consistently loyal to the Crown, and that the tribe has honoured its obligations and responsibilities under the Treaty of Waitangi and

duties as citizens of the nation, especially, but not exclusively, in their active service in all of the major conflicts up to the present time to which New Zealand has sent troops. The Crown pays tribute to Ngāi Tahu's loyalty and to the contribution made by the tribe to the nation.

7. The Crown expresses its profound regret and apologises unreservedly to all members of Ngāi Tahu Whānui for the suffering and hardship caused to Ngāi Tahu, and for the harmful effects which resulted to the welfare, economy and development of Ngāi Tahu as a tribe. The Crown acknowledges that such suffering, hardship and harmful effects resulted from its failures to honour its obligations to Ngāi Tahu under the deeds of purchase whereby it acquired Ngāi Tahu lands, to set aside adequate lands for the tribe's use, to allow reasonable access to traditional sources of food, to protect Ngāi Tahu's rights to pounamu and such other valued possessions as the tribe wished to retain, or to remedy effectually Ngāi Tahu's grievances.

8. The Crown apologises to Ngāi Tahu for its past failures to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana over the South Island lands within its boundaries, and, in fulfilment of its Treaty obligations, the Crown recognises Ngāi Tahu as the tāngata whenua of, and as holding rangatiratanga within, the Takiwā of Ngāi Tahu Whānui.

9. Accordingly, the Crown seeks on behalf of all New Zealanders to atone for these acknowledged injustices, so far as that is now possible, and, with the historical grievances finally settled as to matters set out in the Deed of Settlement signed on 21 November 1997, to begin the process of healing and to enter a new age of cooperation with Ngāi Tahu.”