[FTAA-2512-1153] CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN BLOCK MINING PROJECT
DECISION APPENDIX 2: DRAFT CONDITIONS – WILDLIFE APPROVAL

DEFINITIONS

The table below defines the acronyms and terms used in these conditions. Defined terms are capitalised.

Abbreviation/term	Meaning/definition	
Approval Holder	Taharoa Ironsands Limited	
Authorised Activity	To capture, temporarily hold and relocate any Lizards in Potential Lizard Habitat for the purpose of salvaging them prior to habitat clearance works, and the incidental killing of Lizards during Project Works.	
Authorised Personnel	a) Katherine Muchna (Project Herpetologist) b) Matt Turner c) Jonny Beech d) Suitably qualified personnel under the direct supervision of the named Authorised Personnel.	
DOC	Department of Conservation	
Lizards	**Common Names(s)**	**Scientific Name**
	Copper skink	*Oligosoma aeneum*
	Forest gecko	*Mokopirirakau granulatus*
	Pacific gecko	*Dactylocnemis pacificus*
	Elegant gecko	*Naultinus elegans*
LMP	Lizard Management Plan	
Potential Lizard Habitat	The areas of potential lizard habitat within the Project Site, not including mining exclusion areas, identified through Updated Habitat Surveys and defined in the certified LMP.	
Project	Central and Southern Blocks Mining Project listed under Schedule 2 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.	
Project Site	The Central and Southern Block of the land legally described as Taharoa C Block.	
Project Works	The activities within the Project Site that may impact Lizards in Potential Lizard Habitat, if present, including: • Vegetation and topsoil removal; • Overburden removal and ironsand extraction (including habitat clearance); and • Stabilisation and rehabilitation.	
Release Area	The 1-hectare area of replanted vegetation within the Wainui Stream buffer (approximate location 38.168676 latitude, 174.717035 longitude). See Map 6 of the Draft Lizard Management Plan for Wildlife Approval Application dated October 2025).	
Updated Habitat Surveys	Further baseline habitat surveys to be undertaken by a suitability qualified and experienced person to reassess and confirm the areas of Potential Lizard	

Abbreviation/term	Meaning/definition
	Habitat within the Project Site. These surveys shall be undertaken to inform the LMP that is to be provided to DOC for certification.
Working Day	A day of the week other than— (a) Saturday, a Sunday, Waitangi Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, the Sovereign's birthday, Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki/Matariki Observance Day, and Labour Day; and (b) if Waitangi Day or Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, the following Monday; and (c) a day in the period commencing on 20 December in any year and ending with 10 January in the following year.

WA1 The Approval shall expire 10 years after the date the Approval is granted.

(a) The Approval Holder shall prepare a final LMP. The purpose of the LMP is to protect Lizards within the Potential Lizard Habitat on the Project Site.

(b) The LMP shall be prepared–by a suitably qualified and experienced person, be in accordance with the Draft LMP dated 19 June 2026, follow best practice in terms of hygiene and animal welfare, and include:

(iv) Identification of Potential Lizard Habitats within the Project Site (in accordance with Updated Habitat Surveys) to be surveyed for Lizards;

(v) Pre-salvage surveying requirements and methodologies to identify any Lizards within Potential Lizard Habitats prior to Project Works, including;

1. Set up of Lizard capture infrastructure; and
2. 'Settling in' of Lizard capture infrastructure.

(vi) Translocation methods of any Lizards identified in Potential Lizard Habitats.

(vii) Protocols for:

1. Hygiene (Lizard disease) protocols to minimise the risk of disease transmission;
2. Currently accepted best practice protocols to minimise the risk of injury or death to Lizards during lizard management; and
3. Incidental death associated with salvage.

(viii) Measures for the creation and enhancement of Lizard habitat within the Release Area, including animal pest control; and

(ix) Post-release monitoring (including animal pest monitoring), review of the trigger level for this monitoring, including vegetation extent and suitability, fencing provisions and reporting requirements.

(x) Compensation obligations.

(c) At least 20 Working Days prior to the commencement of Project Works, the LMP shall be provided to DOC for certification that the LMP satisfies the requirements of WA2 1(a) and (b). The Approval Holder and DOC must follow the process set out below:

(iv) The certification (or withholding of certification) of the LMP by DOC must be based on DOC's assessment as to whether the LMP satisfies the requirements of WA1(a) and (b).

(v) Should the LMP, in the opinion of DOC, satisfy the requirements of WA1(a) and (b), DOC will issue written confirmation to the Approval Holder that the LMP is certified.

(vi) Where the LMP, in the opinion of DOC, does not satisfy the requirements of WA1(a) and (b), DOC will advise the Approval Holder in writing of the shortcomings, including any amendments they consider necessary, and ask that the LMP be amended accordingly and then resubmitted. The Approval Holder will address any written response provided by DOC and resubmit an amended LMP for certification.

(vii) Certification will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and certification by, or a written response from, DOC shall take no longer than five (5) working days.

(d) The certified LMP shall be implemented and complied with for the duration of this authorisation.

(e) The Approval Holder may update the LMP by submitting the amended LMP in writing to DOC for certification in accordance with WA1 (c).

Advice note: The application documents contain a draft LMP which will be finalised through this condition.

WA2 The Authorised Activity shall be carried out:

(a) By Authorised Personnel;

(b) In accordance with the LMP;

(c) During the period 30 September to 1 May inclusive (date range applies to capturing, temporarily holding and relocating lizards only); and

(d) For relocation, within the Release Area.

WA3 The Approval Holder must pay the Department of Conservation's standard charge-out rates for any staff time and mileage required to monitor compliance with this Approval and to investigate any alleged breaches of the terms and conditions of it.

WA4 The Director-General may revoke this Approval at any time in respect of the whole or any part (pursuant to clause 7(4) of Schedule 7 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024) if:

(a) The Approval Holder breaches any of the conditions of this Approval; or

(b) In the Director-General's opinion, the carrying out of the Approval has caused or is likely to cause any unforeseen or unacceptable effects on Lizards.

If the Director-General intends to revoke this Approval in whole or in part, the Director-General must give the Approval Holder such prior warning and then prior notice as is reasonable and necessary in the circumstances.

WA5 The Approval Holder must comply with all notices, directions, and requisitions of the Director-General.

WA6 The Authority Holder must review the LMP and resubmit it to the Director-General for certification before the expiry of the Approval, if it intends to seek a renewal of the Approval. The objective of the review is to re-assess habitat conditions and characteristics and update the LMP to reflect current species knowledge, best practice lizard management and mitigation techniques.

WA7 Capture and handling methods must involve only techniques that minimise the risk of infection or injury to the animal and must follow those described in the Herpetofauna inventory and monitoring toolbox http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/biodiversity-inventory-and monitoring/herpetofauna/.

WA8 (a) If any Lizards die during salvage activities, the Approval Holder must inform the Te Kuiti DOC Operations Manager (tekuiti@doc.govt.nz) within 48 hours and follow the instructions of the Manager. This may include:

(i) Chilling the body if it can be delivered within 72 hours of the mortality, or freeze the body if delivery will take longer than 72 hours; and

(ii) Sending the body to Massey University Wildlife Postmortem Service for necropsy or as otherwise advised by the Te Kuiti DOC Operations Manager, along with details of the animal's history;

(iii) Paying for any costs incurred in investigation of the death of any lizard; and/or

(iv) Ceasing the Approved Activity within the Potential Lizard Habitat for a period determined by the DOC Operations Manager.

(b) For the avoidance of doubt condition WA8 applies to Lizard deaths that are associated with salvage activities and does not apply to incidental deaths that occur during Project Works. The purpose of clause (a) is to ensure the methodologies and practices for catch, transfer and release are functioning successfully and to require investigation in the event that deaths occur during salvage activities.

WA9 If any Lizards are found injured on the Project Site, Authorised Personnel must be contacted to get advice on management of the lizard. Injured lizard(s) may be euthanised on recommendation of Authorised Personnel or a veterinarian.

WA10 If a Lizard is discovered during works, activities in a 10 m radius around where the lizard was observed must cease immediately and searches for any other lizards must be carried out and the remaining requirements of the Incidental Discovery Protocol outlined in the certified Lizard Management Plan must be complied with.

WA11 An annual report summarising any Lizard salvage and relocation activities must be prepared and submitted to DOC (tekuiti@doc.govt.nz and permissionshamilton@doc.govt.nz) within 30 days from the completion date of the salvage. Specifically, this report is to include:

(a) Results of any Lizard salvage and relocation work. Should Lizards be found, then the following will also be included in the report:

(iv) Photos illustrating Lizard salvage methods utilised;

(v) Photos of Lizards captured (including photos of the salvage and relocation areas);

(vi) A map showing the location of lizard upon capture and upon release;

(vii) The species and number of any Lizards detected, captured, and released; and

(viii) The results of all surveys and monitoring.

(b) Descriptions of how any Lizard management activities outlined in the LMP and relevant conditions detailed in the wildlife approval were followed including animal pest captures and animal pest monitoring results;

(c) An Amphibian and Reptile Distribution Scheme (ARDS) card detailing information relating to captured lizards (also to be provided to herpetofauna@doc.govt.nz); and a brief summary regarding the outcomes of implementing the LMP, including any Improvements /changes that should be implemented in future.