



Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Treaty settlements and other obligations (Section 18) report

Project Name: FTAA-2507-1086 Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme

To:	Date:
Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure	31 October 2025

Number of attachments: 8	Attachments: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 20242. Project location maps3. List of relevant Māori groups4. Maps of statutory areas5. Consultation requirement in Rangitāne o Manawatū deed of recognition with Commissioner of Crown Lands6. Statements of Association for the Manawatū River and Mangahao River7. Comments received from invited Māori groups8. Comments received from the Minister for Māori Development and/or Minister for Māori Crown Relations
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Key points

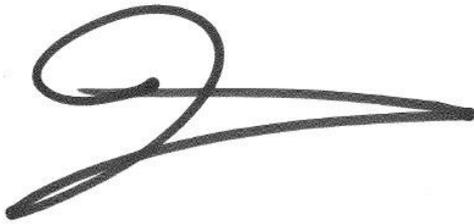
1. The Ministry for the Environment (on behalf of the Secretary for the Environment) has prepared this report on Treaty settlements and other obligations under section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), in relation to the Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme referral application.
2. The applicant, King Country Energy Limited, is seeking renewal of resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for the existing Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme only. No approvals are being sought under other Acts. The Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme is located in the northern Tararua Ranges near the town of Shannon and is owned by King Country Energy Limited.
3. Section 18(2) of the Act requires that the report provide a list of relevant Māori groups, including relevant iwi authorities and Treaty settlement entities. We have identified Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust, Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Settlement Trust, as relevant Treaty settlement entities, and Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Charitable Trust, Rangitāne o Tāmaki

nui-ā-Rua, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc, Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Incorporated as relevant iwi authorities.

4. We have identified the Rangitāne o Manawatu Claims Settlement Act 2016, Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017, and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa – Tāmaki Nui ā Rua Act as relevant to the project area.
5. The Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017 provides for a statutory acknowledgement over the Manawatū River and its tributaries, and the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 provides for statutory acknowledgements over the Manawatū River and its tributaries, Mangahao River, and Tararua Forest Park, and deeds of recognition over the Manawatū River and its tributaries, and Mangahao River. The associated statutory areas encompass or lie adjacent to parts of the project area. Under the RMA and the settlement legislation, a consent authority must have regard to a statutory acknowledgement when deciding whether an iwi is an ‘affected person’ for the purposes of notification decisions and must provide a summary of any consent applications relevant to the statutory area to a statutory acknowledgement holder.
6. We consider the process of inviting comment (including providing information about the application) from Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust under the Act is comparable to the requirements for statutory acknowledgements under the RMA and Treaty settlements.
7. Similarly, the process of inviting comment is also comparable with some of the procedural requirements of the deeds of recognition. However, to comply fully with the procedural requirements of the deeds of recognition, you must also have regard to the views of Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust relating to their association with the Manawatū River and its tributaries and the Mangahao River. While Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust has not commented on the referral application, should you accept this application for referral, a panel considering a substantive application will need to comply with the procedural requirements of the deeds of recognition.
8. In response to the invitation for Māori groups to comment under section 17(1)(d) of the Act, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua (NKKTNAR) provided feedback on the application. NKKTNAR supports the application and advocates that appropriate provision is put in place for salvaging and handling impacted fauna, a cultural impact assessment is undertaken by NKKTNAR, and Kahungunu mātauranga and any NKKTNAR recommendations are implemented in agreed conditions of consent. NKKTNAR requests to be heard in person by the expert panel (in the event a substantive application is lodged).
9. The Minister for Māori Development and the Minister for Māori Crown Relations support the application progressing to the Expert Panel for substantive application consideration subject to:
 - a. the Panel having regard to statutory acknowledgements when deciding whether the holder is an ‘affected person’ for the purposes of notification decisions under the RMA, as provided for in the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017;
 - b. the Panel fully complying with the procedural requirements of the deeds of recognition, including having regard to the views of Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust relating to their association with the Manawatū River (and its tributaries) and the Mangahao River, as provided for under the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016;

- c. the applicant considering giving effect to the comments from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua on the application; and
 - d. the applicant having ongoing engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū, Rangitāne Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua, Muaūpoko, and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga.
10. We do not consider there are any matters identified in section 18 which make it more appropriate for the proposed approvals to be authorised under another Act or Acts.

Signature

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Ilana Miller
General Manager – Delivery & Operations

Introduction

11. Under section 18 of the Act, you must obtain and consider a report on Treaty settlements and other obligations for each referral application, prepared by the Secretary for the Environment.
12. The information which must be provided in this report includes:
 - a. relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 (MACA), and other Māori groups with interests in the project area;
 - b. relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements;
 - c. a summary of comments received from invited Māori groups; and
 - d. advice on whether it may be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.
13. This report is structured accordingly. We have provided a list of the relevant provisions of section 18 at **Attachment 1**.

Proposed project

14. The applicant, King Country Energy Limited, is seeking to renew the resource consents for the Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme. The Hydro Scheme is located in the northern Tararua Ranges near the town of Shannon and is owned by King Country Energy Limited.
15. The Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme dams and diverts water from the upper Mangahao and Tokomaru Rivers and conveys it via tunnels and penstocks to a power station on the western side of the Tararua Ranges, where it is discharged to the Mangaore Stream. No new works or operational changes are proposed for the Hydro Scheme, which generates up to a maximum 39.9 MW of electricity with an average annual output of 131 GWh (enough to power approximately 20,000 homes). The Mangahao and Tokomaru Rivers and Mangaore Stream are tributaries of the Manawatū River. The land on which the hydro facilities are located is owned by the applicant and the Crown. No Māori land is involved.
16. The applicant is solely seeking renewal of consents under the RMA for damming and diversion of water, take and use of water (including non-consumptive take), discharge of water and contaminants to water, and use of structures in the bed of a stream or river. No approvals are being sought under other Acts.
17. We have provided a location map at **Attachment 2**.

Relevant iwi authorities, Treaty settlement entities, and other Māori groups

18. We note that some entities identified below may be included in more than one category. We have included a composite list of all groups at **Attachment 3**.

Iwi authorities

19. We consider the following groups to be the relevant iwi authorities for the project area:
 - a. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Settlement Trust, representing Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua;
 - b. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua, representing Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua;

- c. Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Charitable Trust, representing Rangitāne o Manawatū;
- d. Rangitāne o Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua, representing Rangitāne o Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua;
- e. Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Incorporated, representing Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga;
- f. Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc, representing Muaūpoko; and
- g. Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc, representing Ngāti Kahungunu.

Treaty settlement entities

20. Under section 4(1) of the Act, “Treaty settlement entity” means any of the following:

- (a) a post-settlement governance entity (PSGE):
- (b) a board, trust, committee, authority, or other body, incorporated or unincorporated, that is recognised in or established under any Treaty settlement Act:
- (c) an entity or a person that is authorised by a Treaty settlement Act to act for a natural resource feature with legal personhood:
- (d) Te Ohu Kai Moana or a mandated iwi organisation (as those terms are defined in section 5(1) of the Maori Fisheries Act 2004):
- (e) an iwi aquaculture organisation (as defined in section 4 of the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004).

21. We have identified the following relevant Treaty settlement entities for this project area:

- a. Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust, representing Rangitāne o Manawatū, PSGE for Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016;
- b. Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, representing Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua, PSGE for Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017; and
- c. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Settlement Trust, representing Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua, PSGE for Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki Nui ā Rua Claims Settlement Act 2022.

Groups mandated to negotiate Treaty settlements

22. Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc has a recognised mandate to negotiate a Treaty settlement over an area which may include the project area and is in the early stages of negotiating their Treaty settlement with the Crown. Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga has not yet commenced the Treaty settlement process.

Takutai Moana groups and ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou

23. The project area does not include the common marine and coastal area, and accordingly there are no relevant applicant groups under MACA, and no court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.

24. The project area is not within ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (as set out in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019).

Iwi or hapū whose practices are recognised under the Fisheries Act 1996 through regulation or bylaws

25. The project area does not include a taiāpure-local fisheries area, mātaītai reserve, or area subject to a bylaw or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996.

Owners of identified Māori land where electricity infrastructure or land transport infrastructure is proposed

26. Section 23 of the Act provides that, in making a decision on a referral application under section 21, the Minister may determine that, for the purposes of the project, an activity described in section 5(1)(a) is not an ineligible activity if it:

- a. is the construction of electricity lines or land transport infrastructure by (or to be operated by) a network utility operator that is a requiring authority; and
- b. would occur on identified Māori land that is Māori freehold land or General land owned by Māori that was previously Māori freehold land.

27. This project does not involve an activity described in section 23(1) (i.e. including both (a) and (b)) of the Act.

Iwi authorities and groups representing hapū who are party to relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements

28. If the project area is within the boundaries of either a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreement, and the application includes a proposed RMA approval described in section 42(4)(a) to (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance, or designation), we are required to identify the relevant iwi authority/group that represent hapū that are parties to these arrangements.

29. We have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area, and accordingly there are no parties to these arrangements to identify.

Any other Māori groups with relevant interests

30. We have not identified any other Māori groups with relevant interests in addition to (or who may otherwise be represented by) those groups already covered in the sections above.

31. For your information, the applicant has consulted with Rangitāne o Manawatū, Rangitāne Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua, Muaūpoko, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, and Ngāti Whakatere (a hapū of Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga).

Relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements

Treaty settlements

32. Under section 4(1) of the Act, a Treaty settlement includes both a Treaty settlement Act and a Treaty settlement deed which is signed by both the Crown and representatives of a group of Māori.

33. The following Treaty settlements relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area:

- a. Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016;
- b. Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017; and
- c. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki Nui ā Rua Claims Settlement Act 2022.

Relevant principles and provisions

34. Section 7 of the Act requires all persons exercising powers and functions under the Act to act in a manner consistent with Treaty settlements. The relevant principles and provisions for each of these settlements are set out below:

Crown acknowledgements and apologies

35. The Crown offers acknowledgements and an apology to relevant groups as part of Treaty settlement redress to atone for historical wrongs that breached te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi, to restore honour, and begin the process of healing.
36. As part of its apologies to Rangitāne o Manawatū, Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne Tamaki nui-ā-Rua, and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua, the Crown stated that it looked forward to building a new relationship with these groups based on co-operation, mutual trust, and respect for te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles. The redress mechanisms provided for in Treaty settlements should be viewed in the context of these intentions.

Statutory acknowledgements

37. Water for the Hydro Scheme is dammed and diverted high in the northern Tararua Ranges from the Mangahao and Tokomaru Rivers to a powerhouse on the western side of the Ranges, and then discharged to the Mangaore Stream, a tributary of the Manawatū River. While the Hydro Scheme largely occupies land and riverbed within the Mangahao and Tokomaru Valley Conservation Areas and privately owned land, some parts of the scheme are surrounded by the western margins of Tararua Forest Park.
38. The project area is located within, or may affect, statutory areas for statutory acknowledgements provided for in the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017. We have included deed plans for the relevant statutory areas at **Attachment 4** showing the location of the project area in relation to these statutory acknowledgements.
39. The Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 includes statutory acknowledgements in relation to the Manawatū River and its tributaries, the Mangahao River, and Tararua Forest Park. The statutory area for the Manawatu River and its tributaries includes the entire Manawatū catchment and tributaries downstream of the eastern end of the Manawatū Gorge. It also includes headwater catchments of tributaries on the eastern side of the Ruahine and Tararua Forest Parks but not catchments downstream of the Park's eastern boundaries. The statutory area over the Mangahao River extends from the Lower Mangahao Dam roughly to the eastern boundary of Tararua Forest Park. The Mangahao River statutory acknowledgement also includes the section of Tokomaru River from the Tokomaru Dam downstream to Tokomaru township, and the Mangaore Stream from its headwaters to its confluence with the Manawatū River near Shannon.
40. The statutory area over part of the Tararua Forest Park in the northern Tararua Ranges is roughly wedged shaped and extends from its broadest end near the Lower Mangahao Dam to a point west of Mangamaire in the north. The western margins of this statutory area are

situated adjacent to the Lower Mangahao Dam, Tokomaru Dam, and the access road between the two dams.

41. The Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017 includes a statutory acknowledgement over the Manawatū River and its tributaries within the area of Interest. This includes the entire catchment of the Manawatū River upstream of Ashhurst (including Mangahao River), the Pohangina River, and headwaters of the Oroua River. The Mangahao River lies entirely within this statutory area, flowing northeast from the Tararua Ranges to join the Manawatū River near the eastern end of the Manawatū Gorge roughly 7km upstream of Ashhurst.
42. We note the applicant is not proposing any new works over and above the existing facilities and current operational regime of the Hydro Scheme. Activities that have potential to affect the Mangahao River, Tokomaru River, Mangaore Stream and other parts of the above statutory areas include maintenance of residual flows, fluctuating flows including large releases of water, and sediment flushes from dams.
43. Under the RMA and relevant Treaty settlement Acts, a consent authority must, when considering a resource consent for a proposed activity that is within, adjacent to, or affecting a statutory area:
 - a. provide a summary of the application to the holder of the statutory acknowledgement. The summary of the application must be the same as would be given to an affected person by limited notification under the RMA. The summary must be provided as soon as is reasonably practicable after the relevant consent authority receives the application, but before they decide whether to notify the application; and
 - b. have regard to the statutory acknowledgement when deciding whether the holder (generally a PSGE) is an 'affected person' for the purposes of notification decisions under the RMA.¹
44. The holder of a statutory acknowledgment may also cite the statutory acknowledgment as evidence of their association with a statutory area in any submission before a relevant consent authority (or the Environmental Protection Authority), board of inquiry, Environment Court, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga), who may, in turn, take those statutory acknowledgements and deeds of recognition into account.
45. We consider the process of inviting comment (including providing information about the application) is comparable to the process under Treaty settlement and the RMA of providing those who hold statutory acknowledgements with a summary of the application. You have already invited Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, as relevant Treaty settlement entities, to comment on the application.

Deeds of recognition

46. A deed of recognition may be entered into between a PSGE and the Crown agency managing any statutory area for which a statutory acknowledgment has been agreed. The Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 provides for a deed of recognition to be entered into with each of Minister of Conservation and Director General of Conservation, and Commissioner of Crown Lands, in relation to the Manawatū and Mangahao Rivers, and with Minister of Conservation and Director General of Conservation in relation to Tararua Forest Park. Under section 38(2) of the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement

¹ In addition to consent authorities, the Environment Court and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga must also have regard to statutory acknowledgements in relation to some of their processes.

Act 2016, a deed of recognition over a river applies only to a part of the bed of the river or stream owned by the Crown, which is the land that the waters of the river or stream cover at their fullest flow without flowing over the banks of the river or stream.

47. The Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement provides that the Minister of Conservation and the Director General of Conservation, or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as the case may be, must, if undertaking certain activities within an area that a deed of recognition relates to, consult Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust and have regard to its views concerning the Trust's association with the area as described in a statement of association.
48. Under section 2 of the deed of recognition relating to the Manawatū and Mangahao Rivers, the Minister of Conservation and the Director General of Conservation must consult Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust on the following activities:
 - a. preparing a conservation management strategy, or a conservation management plan, under the Conservation Act 1987 or the Reserves Act 1977:
 - b. preparing a national park management plan under the National Parks Act 1980:
 - c. preparing a non-statutory plan, strategy, programme, or survey in relation to a statutory area that is not a river for any of the following purposes:
 - i. to identify and protect wildlife or indigenous plants:
 - ii. to eradicate pests, weeds, or introduced species:
 - iii. to assess current and future visitor activities:
 - iv. to identify the appropriate number and type of concessions:
 - d. preparing a non-statutory plan, strategy, or programme to protect and manage a statutory area that is a river: and
 - e. locating or constructing structures, signs, or tracks.
49. None of the activities listed in paragraph 48 above appear to be relevant for this application.
50. Under section 2 of the deed of recognition with the Commissioner of Crown Lands, relating to the Manawatū and Mangahao Rivers, the Commissioner of Crown Lands must inform and consult Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust regarding an application for a right of use or occupation (including renewing such a right) in the area to which the deed of recognition applies. The Commissioner of Crown Lands must also provide Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust with sufficient information to make informed decisions in respect of such an application.
51. Our view is that the referral application may be considered 'an application to the Crown' in the context of the deed of recognition with the Commissioner of Crown Lands over the Manawatū and Mangahao Rivers.
52. Section 16 of the Act requires the Minister to comply with any applicable procedural requirements in a Treaty settlement. We consider that the process of inviting comment from Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust on the application under the Act (including providing information about the application) is comparable to the deed of recognition consultation requirement set out at paragraph 50. However, to comply fully with the procedural requirements of the deed of recognition, you must also have regard to the views of Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust relating to its association with the Manawatū River and its tributaries, and the Mangahao River, as described in the relevant statements of association for these waterways in the Rangitāne o Manawatū Treaty settlement.

53. We note that Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust has not provided any feedback on the referral application, including in relation to the deeds of recognition over the Manawatū and Mangahao Rivers. Should you accept this application for referral, under schedule 3 clause 5 of the Act a panel will need to comply with the procedural requirements of the deeds of recognition in its consideration of a substantive application, including inviting Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust to comment and having regard to its views.
54. We have included the relevant excerpt from the deed of recognition with the Commissioner of Crown Lands at **Attachment 5**, and the Rangitāne o Manawatū statements of association regarding the Manawatū and Mangahao Rivers at **Attachment 6**.

Manawatu River Catchment Advisory Board

55. The Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 provides for the establishment of the Manawatu River Catchment Advisory Board (the Advisory Board). The purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide advice to the Manawatū–Whanganui Regional Council in relation to freshwater management issues concerning the Manawatu River catchment. If the Advisory Board and the Regional Council agree in writing, the Advisory Board may provide advice to the Regional Council on any other matter. This could include advice on resource consents such as those sought for the Mangahao Hydro Scheme.
56. The Advisory Board, which is yet to be established, is to be comprised of one member each appointed by Rangitāne o Manawatu Settlement Trust, Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Settlement Trust, and representatives of iwi who become entitled to appoint a member under another enactment i.e. other settlement legislation.
57. As the Manawatu River Catchment Advisory Board is yet to be established, there is no advice or comments to consider in respect of the Advisory Board at this time.
58. Finally, we also note that iwi and hapū are likely to have cultural associations with ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga beyond what is specifically identified in a Treaty settlement or other arrangements. Local tangata whenua and their representatives would be best placed to advise on such matters in the first instance.

Customary Marine Title/Protected Customary Rights

59. As noted above, the project area is not within a customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or within or adjacent to ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou.

Taiāpure-local fisheries/mātaitai reserves/areas subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996

60. As noted above, the project area does not include a taiāpure-local fishery, mātaitai reserve, or area subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe/Joint management agreement

61. As noted above, we have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area.

Summary of comments received and advice

Comments from invited Māori groups

62. Pursuant to section 17(1)(d) of the Act, on 20 August 2025 you invited written comments from the Māori groups identified above in paragraphs 19 to 22 from a list we previously provided you. These groups were provided with access to the application material and had 20 working days from receipt of the copy of the application to respond.
63. You received comments on the application from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua (NKKTNAR), which can be summarised as follows:
- a. The headwaters of the Mangahao awa are one of the forces that bring Kahungunutanga to life, 'Tihei Kahungunu!'. The connection to this area was through the atua (deity) Tangaroa, as the Mangahao awa is the final resting place of the pūtātara (conch trumpet) that Tangaroa left behind when 'Te Ika a Maui', the great fish of Maui that is now Aotearoa, was pulled from the depths of his domain.
 - b. NKKTNAR supports the proposed resource consent renewal for the Mangahao Hydro Scheme and has been engaging with the applicant on the proposal for over 12 months. This engagement has been grounded in a mātauranga Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua approach with a focus on relationship/co-operation and collaboration.
 - c. NKKTNAR has been commissioned in principle by the applicant to undertake a cultural impact assessment, which will articulate how mātauranga and western science can be applied together to benefit the health of the tīpuna awa.
 - d. NKKTNAR request to speak verbally to the expert panel in respect of this submission.
 - e. NKKTNAR advocates that:
 - i. a “suitably qualified experienced person” be required to implement the environmental plan for managing effects of the Hydro Scheme including (but not limited to) undertaking surveys, and salvage and management of fauna;
 - ii. appropriate provision is put in place for salvaging and handling fauna at each fauna management site;
 - iii. the applicant continues consultation with NKKTNAR and an agreement is formalised for undertaking cultural impact assessment;
 - iv. opportunities for co-leadership and training are provided to wider group of kaitiaki/poutiaki in relation to the proposal; and
 - v. Kahungunu mātauranga and any NKKTNAR recommendations are implemented in agreed conditions of consent.

Consultation with departments and Ministers

64. In preparing this report, we are required to:
- a. consult relevant departments; and
 - b. provide a draft of the report to the Minister for Māori Development and the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti (for response within 10 working days).

65. We sought advice from Te Puni Kōkiri and The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana – Te Tari Whakatau regarding the relevant Māori groups, and have incorporated their views into this report.
66. The Minister for Māori Development and the Minister for Māori Crown Relations support the application progressing to the Expert Panel for substantive application consideration subject to:
- a. the Panel having regard to statutory acknowledgements when deciding whether the holder is an ‘affected person’ for the purposes of notification decisions under the RMA, as provided for in the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017;
 - b. the Panel fully complying with the procedural requirements of the deeds of recognition, that must have regard to the views of Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust relating to their association with the Manawatū River (and its tributaries) and the Mangahao River, as provided for under the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016;
 - c. the applicant considering giving effect to the response from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua; and
 - d. ongoing engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū, Rangitāne Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua, Muaūpoko and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga.

Advice on whether it may be more appropriate to deal with the proposed approvals under another Act/s

67. Under section 18(2)(m), this report must include our advice on whether, due to any of the matters identified in section 18, it may be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.
68. We do not consider there are any matters raised in this report which make it more appropriate for the proposed approvals to be authorised under another Act or Acts.

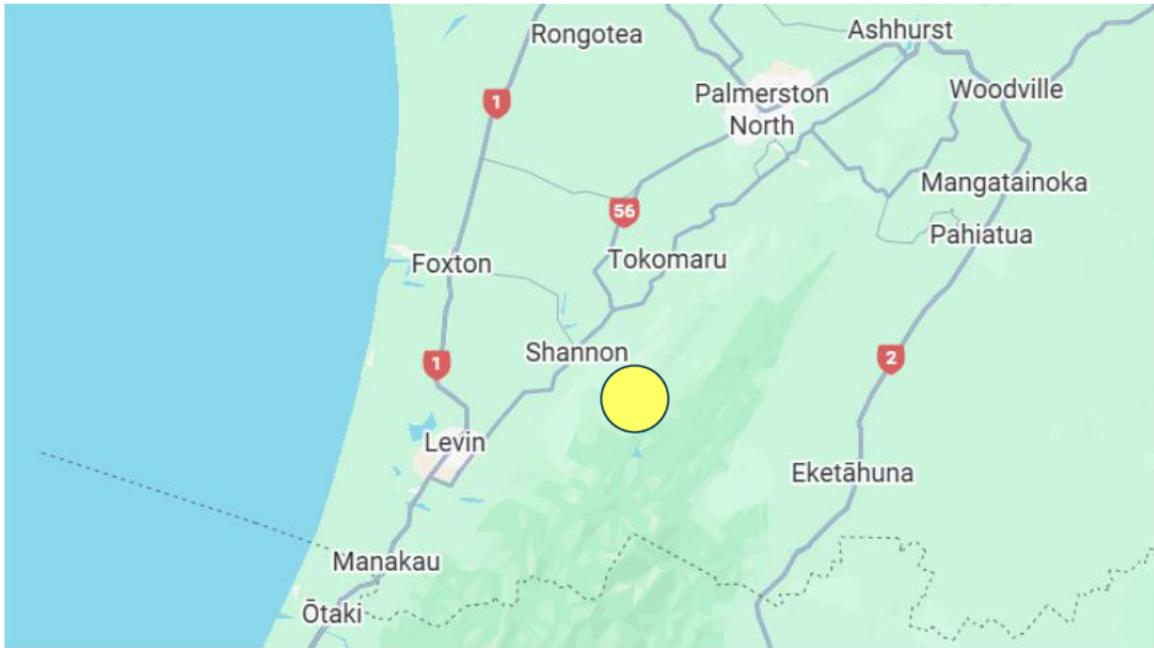
Attachment 1: Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Section	Information required	Paragraph reference in this report
18(1)	The Minister must, for a referral application, obtain and consider a report that is prepared by the responsible agency in accordance with this section.	11, 12
18(2)(a)	Any relevant iwi authorities and relevant Treaty settlement entities	19, 21
18(2)(b)	Any Treaty settlements that relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area	33
18(2)(c)	The relevant principles and provisions in those Treaty settlements, including those that relate to the composition of a decision-making body for the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991	35-58
18(2)(d)	Any recognised negotiation mandates for, or current negotiations for, Treaty settlements that relate to the project area.	22
18(2)(e)	Any court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.	23, 59]
18(2)(f)	Any applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 that seek recognition of customary marine title or protected customary rights within the project area.	23, 59
18(2)(g)	Whether the project area would be within or adjacent to, or the project would directly affect, ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou (and, if so, the relevant provisions of the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019).	24, 59
18(2)(h)	Whether the project area includes any taiāpure-local fisheries, mātaihai reserves, or areas that are subject to bylaws or regulations made under Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996 (and, if so, who the tangata whenua are).	25, 60
18(2)(i)	Whether the project involves an activity that could be the subject of a determination under 23 (and, if so, who the owners of the land are).	27
18(2)(j)	If the proposed approvals include an approval described in any of section 42C(4)(a) to (d) (resource consent, certificate of compliance, or designation), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to any relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements. 	29, 61

	(ii) The relevant principles and provisions in those Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and joint management agreements.	
18(2)(k)	Any other Māori groups with relevant interests.	30
18(2)(l)	A summary of— (i) comments received by the Minister after inviting comments from Māori groups under section 17(1)(d) and (e); (ii) any further information received by the Minister from those groups	62, 63
18(2)(m)	The responsible agency's advice on whether, due to any of the matters identified in this section, it may be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.	10, 68
18(3)	In preparing the report required by this section, the responsible agency must— (a) consult relevant departments; and (b) provide a draft of the report to the Minister for Māori Development and the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti.	64, 65
18(4)	Those Ministers must respond to the responsible agency within 10 working days after receiving the draft report	64

Attachment 2: Project location maps

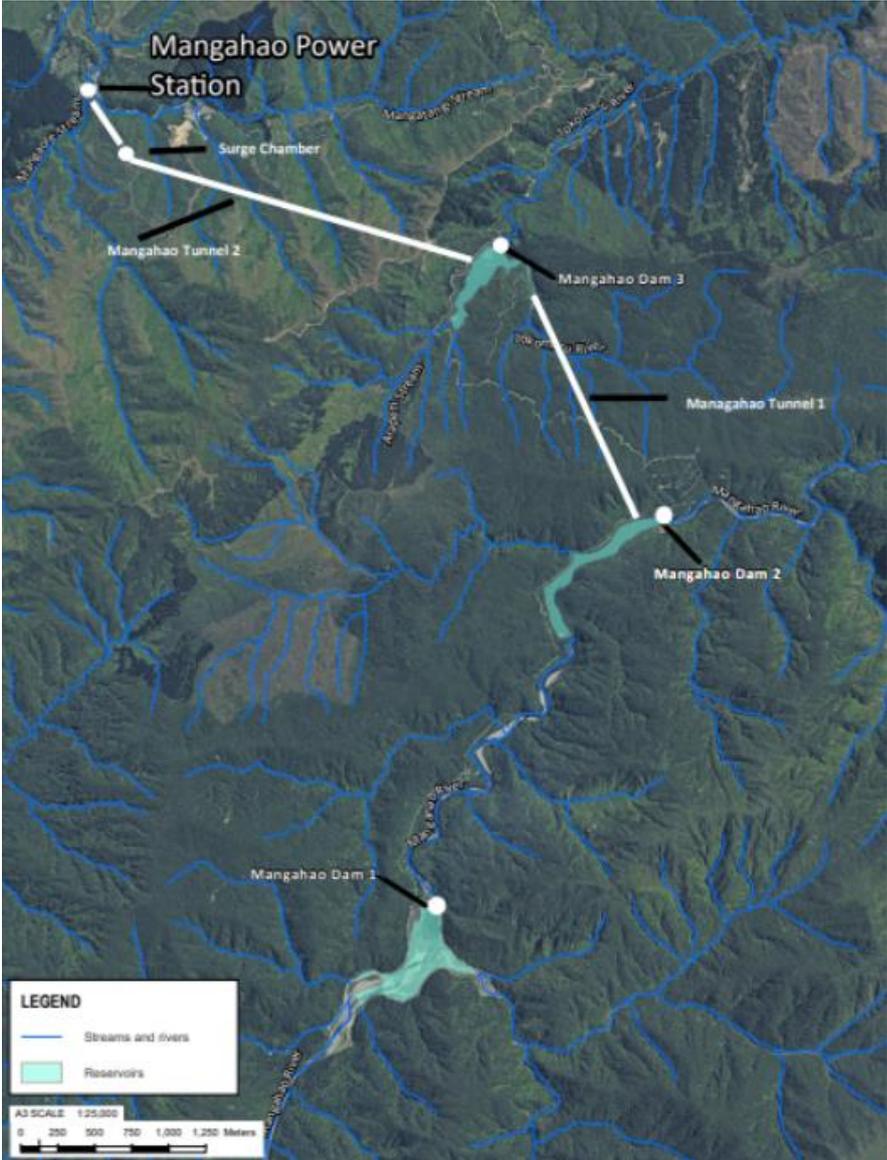
Map 1. Location of Mangahao Hydro Scheme indicated by yellow circle below



Map 2. Location of Mangahao Hydro Scheme project area indicated by red marking below



Map 3. Footprint of the Mangahao Hydro Scheme



Attachment 3: List of relevant Māori groups

Name of group	Type of group (section of Act)
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Settlement Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki Nui ā Rua Claims Settlement Act 2022
Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust	Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017
Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust	Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a) – Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016
Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)), mandated entity (s18(2)(d))
Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Incorporated	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a))
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a))
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a))
Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Charitable Trust	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a))
Rangitāne o Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a))

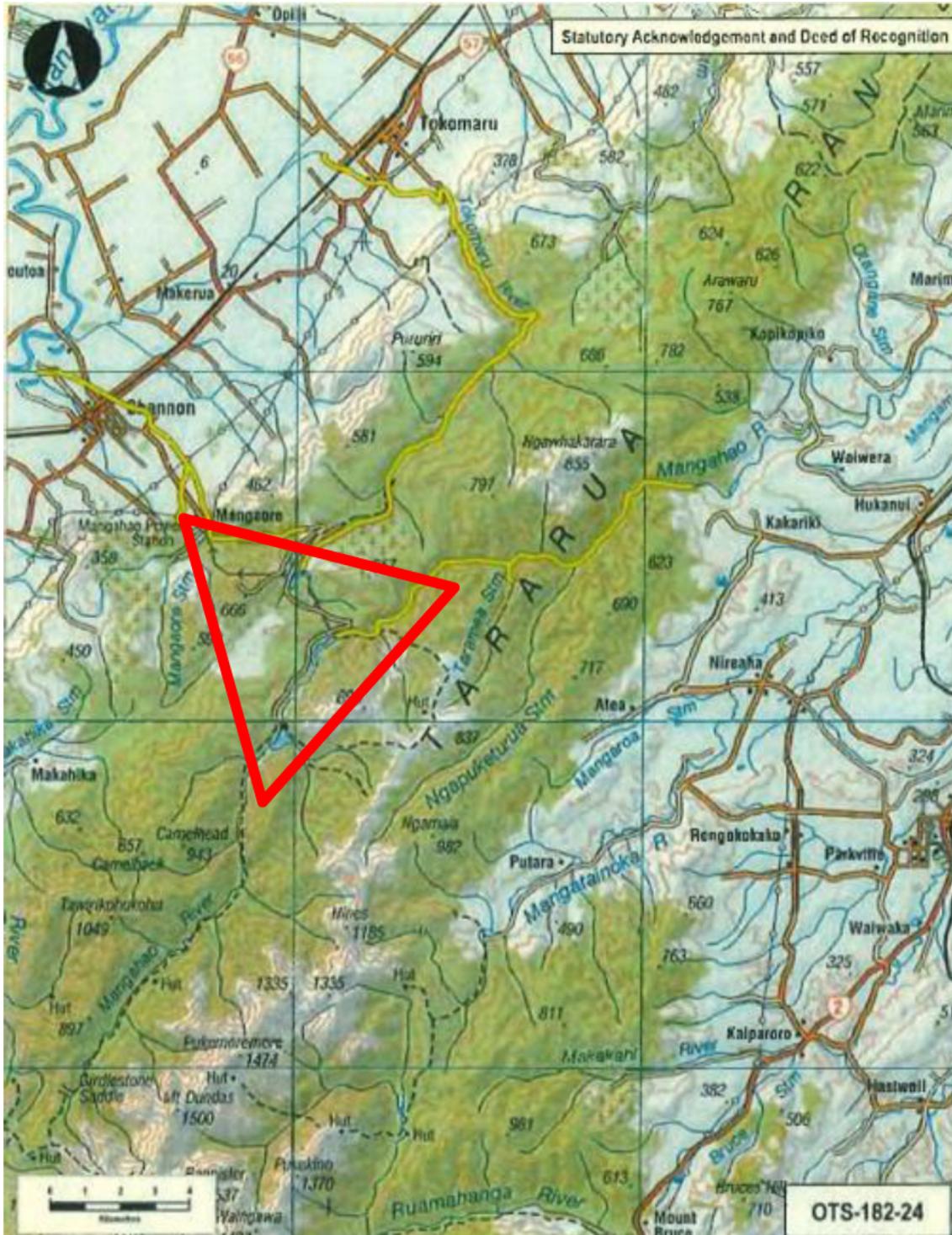
Attachment 4: Maps of statutory areas

Map 5. Rangitāne o Manawatū Statutory Acknowledgement and Deed of Recognition for the Manawatū River and its tributaries (deed plan OTS-182-24)
Approximate location of Mangahao Hydro Scheme indicated by red triangle

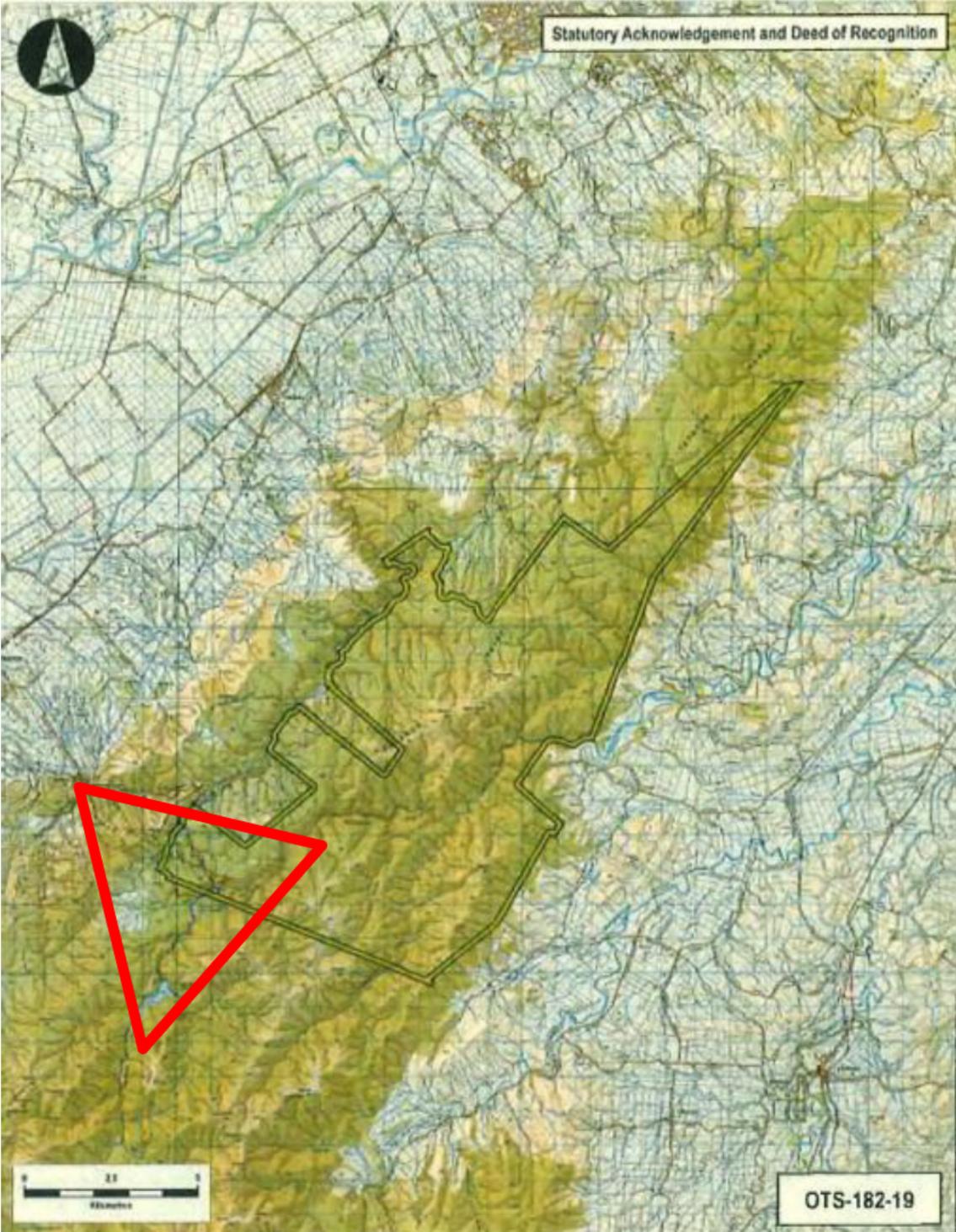


**Map 6. Rangitāne o Manawatū Statutory Acknowledgement and Deed of Recognition for the Mangahao River
(deed plan OTS-182-24)**

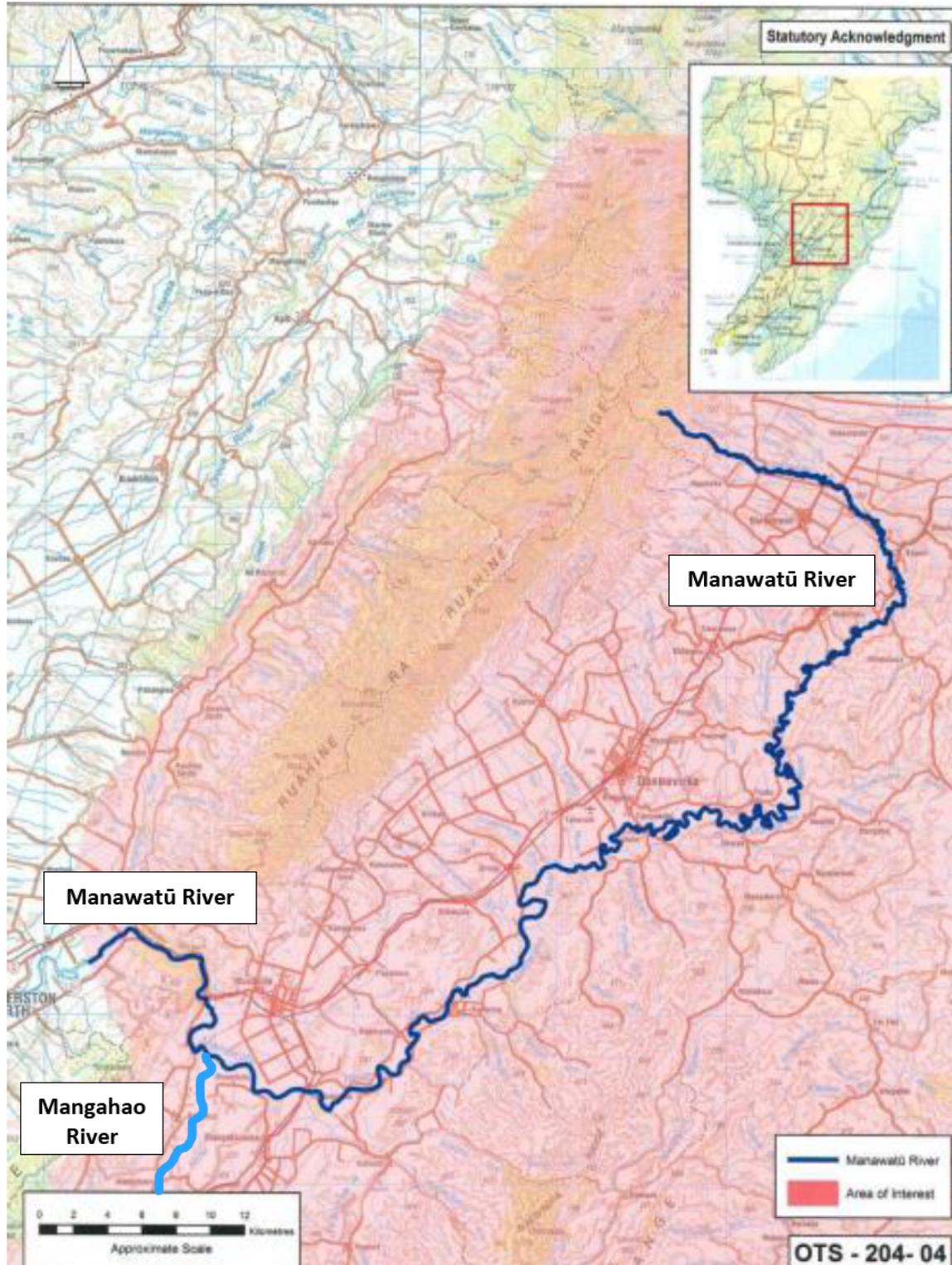
Approximate location of Mangahao Hydro Scheme indicated by red triangle



**Map 7. Rangitāne o Manawatū Statutory Acknowledgement and Deed of Recognition for Tararua Forest Park
(deed plan OTS-182-19)
Approximate location of Mangahao Hydro Scheme indicated by red triangle**



Map 8. Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne Tamaki nui-ā-Rua Statutory Acknowledgement for the Manawatū River and its tributaries within the Area of Interest (deed plan OTS-204-04)
 The Mangahao River, a tributary of the Manawatū River, is shown in light blue. The Mangahao Hydro Scheme is located in the headwaters of the Mangahao River.



Attachment 5: Consultation requirement in Rangitāne o Manawatū Deed of Recognition with Commissioner of Crown Lands

DOCUMENTS

4: DEEDS OF RECOGNITION

THIS DEED is made by **THE CROWN** acting by the Commissioner of Crown Lands

2 CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The Commissioner of Crown Lands must, if undertaking an activity specified in clause 2.2 in relation to a statutory area, consult and have regard to the views of the governance entity concerning the settling group's association with that statutory area as described in a statement of association.
- 2.2 Clause 2.1 applies to each of the following activities (the **identified activities**):
- 2.2.1 considering an application for a right of use or occupation (including renewing such a right):
- 2.3 The Commissioner of Crown Lands must, when consulting the governance entity under clause 2.1, -
- 2.3.1 provide the governance entity with sufficient information to make informed decisions, and
 - 2.3.2 inform the governance entity of an application referred to in clause 2.2.1, but may withhold commercially sensitive information and material included within, or relating to, the application.

Website link:

Rangitāne o Manawatū Deed of Settlement Documents Schedule
[Rangitane o Manawatu Documents Schedule 14 Nov 2015](#)

Invitation to provide written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

You have been invited to provide written comments to the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) on an application to refer a project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track process.

Please upload comments directly via the portal by completing this template.

Before the due date, for assistance on how to respond or about this template or with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Written comments must be received by MfE, on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure, no later than the due date.

Important information

Your personal information will be held by MfE and be used in relation to the project application and process. You have the right to access and correct personal information held by MfE.

A copy of your comments, including all personal information, will be provided to the Minister and the applicant.

If you are a corporate entity making comments on this application, your full contact details will be publicly available.

For individuals, your name will be publicly available, but your contact details (phone number, address, and email) will not be publicly available.

A copy of your comments will also be published on the Fast-track website. If you believe any of the information you have provided is confidential or sensitive and should be withheld from publication, please highlight the information concerned and provide an explanation to support your request for withholding it. Your comment and explanation will be decided by the Ministry on whether to withhold the information from publication.

Please do not use copyright material without the permission of the copyright holder.

All information held by MfE is subject to the Official Information Act 1982.

More information on the fast-track approvals process and providing comments can be found at [Process overview | Fast-track website](#)

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

Project name	Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme
---------------------	--------------------------------------

Before the due date, for assistance on how to respond or about this template or with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) must be completed.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua		
*First name	Chrissy		
*Last name	Marshall		
Postal address	171 High Street, PO Box 97, 4930 Dannevirke		
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	
*Email	s 9(2)(a)		

2. Please provide your comments on this application
<p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua (NKKTNAR) support the proposed Resource Consent renewal for the Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme, and thus the Fast Track Application. This application is to renew the consent and operations at the current site. 2. NKKTNAR have been engaging with the applicant: KCE/Manawa Energy in the re-consenting process. This engagement has been grounded in a Mātauranga Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua approach. 3. We are in support with the following understanding in place: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) It is NKKTNAR duty to listen and support the voices of our local whānau, hapū and advocate for their perspective in regards to this consent application. b) We have been commissioned (in principle) by the applicant to prepare a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) to best reflect our support for this resource application. c) We reserve the right for any recommendations from this CIA to be considered as part of this application, so that all issues can be identified and resolved accordingly. d) NKKTNAR request to speak verbally to this submission to the expert consenting panel.

Insert Fast-track logo

INTRODUCTION

4. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua is the post settlement governance entity for the Ngāti Kahungunu iwi in Wairarapa and Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua. We completed our Treaty Settlement in 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/4fbdmxuu>
5. As part of our Treaty Settlement, the apology stated that: “The Crown looks forward to forging a renewed and enduring relationship with the people of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua that is grounded in mutual trust, co-operation, and respect for te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles.”
6. NKKTNAR represent the interests of Ngāti Kahungunu iwi within Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua and the headwaters for the Mangahao Hydro-Power Scheme is within the legislated iwi boundaries.
7. Please accept this as our submission/comments, no Regulatory Authority has the Mandate to speak on behalf of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua.

STATEMENT OF KEY MATTERS

8. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua have engaged with KCE/Manawa Energy regarding the reconsent process for over 12 months. Engagement has been based on a Mātauranga Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua process, with a focus on relationship/co-operation and collaboration. This brings into perspective a dynamic of equity and reciprocity.
9. The headwaters of the Mangahao awa (which is crucial for the operations of this power scheme) are one of the forces that bring Kahungunutanga to life, 'Tihei Kahungunu!'. The connection in this area was one with the Atua Tangaroa, "Te Ika a Maui" the great fish of Maui which is now Aotearoa/New Zealand.
10. The Mangahao awa is the final resting place of the Pūtātara that Tangaroa left behind when the fish was pulled from the depths of his Domain. His Pūtātara/Conch/Trumpet was heard in the days prior to the hydro power schemes construction, and is heard during the backwash process, when the Awa runs at full force and the sound of the Pūtātara is heard as the water roars down through the Mangahao Gorge.
11. Atuaranga/O-nuku-rangi is not given the mana it deserves, as an Iwi we expect to be able to work alongside western ecologists, where both strands of knowledge bring better enhanced health status back to our tīpuna awa (Mangahao).
12. We have been commissioned in principle to do a Cultural Impact Assessment, which will explain and articulate how we see this working. Ultimately this will ensure the inclusion of Kahungunu Mātauranga during the drafting of this resource consent in particular to ecological conditions and allow for any issues to be remediated. We also propose the following:
 - a) that a “Suitably Qualified Experienced Person” be present alongside the consenting process. Suitably Qualified Person(s) (SQPs) are experienced individuals (such as ecologists and/or Kaitiaki/Poutiaki) with an appropriate level of competency and training to implement a particular aspect of the Environmental Plan in relation to effects of the Mangahao hydro-electric power scheme.
 - b) NKKTNAR recommend that the SQEP includes (but not limited to) undertaking surveys, fauna salvage and management. Technical expertise could come from university qualifications and/or mātauranga.
 - c) That this application determines appropriate salvaging footprint and methodologies to be applied at each fauna management site (e.g. stream works, vegetation clearance).

- d) Identification, knowledge and skills sufficiently developed to recognise potentially 'Threatened', 'At-Risk', or pest species that may be present within Power-Scheme / Site of operation.
 - e) Provide co-leadership and training opportunities to wider group of Kaitiaki/Poutiaki.
13. As the process goes through the NBA fast track expert panel process under Fastrack, we will submit when necessary as the panel publicises each 'Minute'.

DECISION SOUGHT

14. That this proposed Consent Application that it is currently written and being applied for through the fast-tracked process proceed whilst the following actions occur:
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 - b) That the applicant continues to engage with NKKTNAR and in good faith allow for any recommendations to be implemented in agreed upon conditions of this Resource Consent.
15. NKKTNAR request to speak verbally to this submission to the expert consenting pane

Note: All comments will be made available to the public and the applicant when the Ministry for the Environment proactively releases advice provided to the Minister for the Environment.

Managers signoff



Stacey Hape

Date 17/9/2025

To: Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Consenting Panel

Re: The Fast Track Application team requests that you provide feedback on the Application regarding - Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme Resource Consent Renewal

SUBMISSION BY Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua (NKKTNAR)

Wednesday 17 June 2025

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Iwi / hapū: Ngāti Kahungunu (NKKTNAR)
Address: 171 High Street, PO Box 97, 4930
Dannevirke
Email: chrissy@kahungunotnar.co.nz
Phone: 0273475167
Contact: Chrissy Marshall – Environmental Project Facilitator

I am submitting on behalf of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua

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Managers signoff



Stacey Hape
General Manager
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua

Date 17/9/2025

Attachment 6: Statements of Association for the Manawatū River and Mangahao River

DOCUMENTS

3: STATEMENTS OF ASSOCIATION

Manawatu River and tributaries (as shown on deed plan OTS-182-20)

The Manawatu River is of immense historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Rangitāne o Manawatu. The Manawatu River was the main route for travel and communication for Rangitāne o Manawatu with settlements along the margins of the river.

Rangitāne o Manawatu has a rich belief system and structure that has developed over hundreds of years of occupation. The belief system developed a number of spiritual and ritualistic practices that occur at different times and locations along the Manawatu River. A large number of these practices have disappeared due to the introduction of European culture and Christianity.

The Manawatu River was created through the spirit of Okatia, who gave life to a totara growing on the slopes of the Puketoi Range in the Hawkes Bay. The totara made its way to the mountain ranges of the Ruahine and Tararua, and as it forced its way through the ranges, it created the Manawatu Gorge and the Manawatu River as it made its way out to sea. For Rangitāne o Manawatu traditions such as this, represent the significant links between the cosmological world and the modern world, which have shaped Rangitāne o Manawatu.

The name Manawatu was bestowed on the River by the Rangitāne Tohunga Haunui a Nanaia, over six hundred years ago. Whilst searching for his wife, Waireka, Hau travelled down the West Coast of the North Island crossing and naming many waterways. When he reached a turbulent flowing river which caused his heart to sink as he thought he may not be able to cross it and continue his search, he called the River Manawatu.

The spiritual connection that Rangitāne o Manawatu have with the River is evidenced by the building of churches along the River such as the Church Turongo Hiha. It was here that an aged Rangitāne Chief related to the assembled people that he had had a momentous dream the previous night. He dreamed that he was standing at the foot of two great totara trees somewhere on the bank of the Manawatu River and that these trees were talking to each other. The first tree said, "Do you know who I am?" "No," was the reply. "I am whangarae (the god of the forehead)," said the first. "Oh. Do you know who I am?" asked the second. "I am whangaihu (the god of the nose)." And they both chanted an incantation. Hiha remembered this karakia and recited it to the assembly. So, on an appointed day, three large canoes made their way up the River to search for the trees. They finally discovered them at a place called Kairanga, near where the Linton Army Camp now stands. The trees were felled and floated down the River to Moutoa where they were pit-sawn into timber. The timber produced by these two great totara was sufficient not only to build the Church but also the furnishings, including a beautifully carved altar. The church was subsequently bestowed with the name Turongo.

Located within the Manawatu River, are many taonga of significance to Rangitāne o Manawatu. There is Te Au-rere-a-te-Tonga, the flowing current of the south, Te Au-nui-a-Tonga, the waterfall located in the gorge, as is the tapu rock Te Ahu a Turanga, which remains visible even in the highest of floods.

There were many Rangitāne o Manawatu kaitiaki guardians of the River. These included Peketahi who lived at Puketotara, and Whangaimokopuna who lived near Hotuiti, also known as Motuiti until he was banished and now lives up in the hills at Raekatia. Whenever Rangitāne people from the lower reaches of the River visit that area, a mist descends which is Whangaimokopuna weeping for his old friends.

Rangitāne o Manawatu practised a number of rituals along the Manawatu River where its resources were utilised. These sites later developed into tapu or wāhi tapu sites. Most if not all of these sites have now been lost (in private or local government ownership) or destroyed due to engineering works.

The Manawatu River and its large number of waterways provided the main highway for Rangitāne o Manawatu and as well as being a mahinga kai in its own right, it fed into the land based mahinga kai. Along the Manawatu River, were located numerous Rangitāne o Manawatu Pa, which have now become one with the River and their locations and the myriad of trails used by Rangitāne o Manawatu, remain an integral part of our traditional history. The traditional mobile lifestyle of Rangitāne o Manawatu, led to their dependence on the Manawatu River and its resources.

Because of the long history of the Manawatu River in providing the highway and mahinga kai to Rangitāne o Manawatu, both on a temporary and permanent basis, there are numerous urupa, wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga associated with the River and Rangitāne o Manawatu. These associations hold the memories, traditions, victories and wairua of Rangitāne o Manawatu tupuna, and many locations therefore, remain unknown to the wider public.

The most significant quality that flows through the Manawatu River is its mauri which binds all the physical, traditional and spiritual elements of all things together, generating, nurturing and upholding all life. That mauri is the most crucial element that binds Rangitāne o Manawatu with the Manawatu River, and that relationship has consisted for over seven hundred years of unbroken occupation.

The interconnected waterways of the Manawatu form a dendritic pattern across the landscape. The mauri supplied from the mountains and areas in the gorge is transported along these waterways to nourish and feed the land and everything living on the land. The Manawatu River for Rangitāne o Manawatu is seen as the main artery in this network containing the strongest and greatest amount of mauri. If any activity that disrupts the flow of the waterway or pollutes the watercourse it is seen as having a negative impact on the mauri which then in turn has a direct negative impact on Rangitāne o Manawatu land and people.

Rangitāne o Manawatu occupation of the Manawatu River continues today after several hundred years. To secure the natural resources needed to sustain Rangitāne o Manawatu and protect the people from neighbouring iwi, Rangitāne o Manawatu developed a number of Pa in strategic locations. These Pa were situated near their most valuable natural resources as well as in strategic positions, particularly along the Manawatu River.

Rangitāne o Manawatu occupied a large area of the Manawatu and developed into a number of whanau based hapu that were responsible for certain geographical areas and natural resources along the Manawatu River. Each hapu interacted with the river and the river flowed through each hapu rohe. These are outlined:

Ngāti Mairehau (Also known as Ngāi Tuahuriri)

Occupied the east bank of the Manawatu River around Turitea to Tokomaru and over the Tararua Ranges to Pahiatua. More specifically along the northwest bank between Ngāwhakaraua and Awapuni.

Ngāti Hineaute

Occupied the land along the Manawatu River from Te Apiti to the northern boundary of Palmerston North City.

Ngāti Rangitepaia (Also known as Ngāti Rangī)

Were based on land from the southern boundary of the city to the confluence of the Oroua and Manawatu Rivers.

Ngāti Rangiaranaki

Shared the riverbank of the Manawatu River from Te Apiti to Palmerston North with Ngāti Hineaute.

Ngāti Tauira

A shared Rangitāne – Ngāti Apa hapu located around the Oroua River above Mangawhata extending to the Rangitikei River and coastal area.

Ngāti Te Kapuarangi

Occupied the upper Manawatu catchment and Pohangina area.

The Manawatu River, its geomorphology and human geography can be divided into distinct reaches. Each reach, having a unique environment, meant Rangitāne o Manawatu interacted with that environment accordingly.

Te Apiti (“The Gorge”)

This part of the River was recognised for its spiritual connections and significance. As identified the Gorge was carved by a great spirit Okatia cutting its way through the active rising mountain range, the backbone of Te Ika A Maui, allowing the waters to flow from east to west. This active mountain range is a source of mauri for Rangitāne o Manawatu hence the mauri is then transported by the waters of the River to the rest of the rohe. The majority of the sites of significance in this stretch of the River are related to the identification and preservation of mauri in the River.

Otangaki – Papaeioa (Palmerston North) – Puketotara

Geographically this stretch consisting of a steep, gravely bed with defined flood plain contained a number of strongholds and Pa. These Pa were used in times of attack as well as to prepare warriors for battle. These Pa also controlled the entrance to the Gorge as well as various crossings over the Ranges.

This stretch of what used to be clear clean water was also used seasonally to gather resources and foods from various locations in the Ranges as well as along the River and used in ritual practises at the related Pa.

Puketotara was the largest Pa in the area and the central point of the Rangitāne rohe. This site was home to all Rangitāne and numerous events occurred there that determined the future of Rangitāne o Manawatu.

Puketotara – Te Papa Ngaio (Shannon/Opiki/Foxton)

This stretch of the River was the most intensively populated and utilised section of the River for Rangitāne o Manawatu. In this area were numerous Rangitāne o Manawatu papakainga and kainga as well as large areas of cultivations. This part of the Manawatu River was a highway for a large amount of traffic for travel, communication and to access the rich supply of resources contained with the lowland forests and swamps. Associated with the intense population were also numerous sites of ritualistic practice and worship.

Ngāwhakaraua was a large Pa situated on a great horseshoe bend of the Manawatu River, slightly upriver and east of the river’s confluence with the Oroua River, and one mile south of the Opiki toll bridge. The pa was occupied by Rangitāne o Manawatu and covered 86 acres of land. The principal buildings were, Te Ahu A Turanga Church, moved from Puketotara c.1879

and destroyed by fire c.1907, although replaced with a smaller building and a wooden whare runanga, 'Kotahitanga.' Kotahitanga represented the kaupapa of unity. Ngāwhakaraua was in use as a mahinga kai for some time before the establishment of a Pa in the locality, which indicates there were sufficient food resources on the surrounding land to sustain a resident population.

Te Papa Ngaio – Okatia Beach (Opiki to Foxton Beach)

The coastal area of the Manawatu River was extremely important to Rangitāne o Manawatu. Not only was this area a rich source of kai moana and other natural resources but Rangitāne o Manawatu were also able to participate in trade with other iwi and groups travelling along the coastline. One of the greatest resources in this area was the Tapuiwaru swamp (now referred to as the Moutoa floodway). It was also a very important area as it was the main access point to the Manawatu River and to the East Coast of the North Island.

Rangitāne o Manawatu - Significant Sites

Along the Manawatu River in the Rangitāne o Manawatu rohe there are 185 recorded sites of significance. The majority of these sites of settlement and occupation and would have had permanent structures associated with them.

Approximately ten of these sites were substantial cultivations or eel weirs that were recorded in historical accounts.

A number of mahinga kai, traditional food gathering areas, and nohoanga, areas of seasonal settlement were located along the River. However a number of these have been destroyed and lost due to engineering works and the moving of the watercourse of the River as the result of engineering works. Over the last one hundred years with constant land use change Rangitāne o Manawatu cultural landscape and its traditional use has been destroyed and lost.

Significant Sites Associated with the Manawatu River

NAME	DESCRIPTION	NAME	DESCRIPTION
Ahiaruhe	Kainga	Kari Kari	Occupied location
Ahimate	Pa	Kari kari	Site river
Ake Ake	Kainga	Kimi-Mai-I-Tawhiti	Kainga
Animate (Ahimate)	Kainga	Kopuanui	Pa
Aramari	Kainga	Kopu-Toroa	Kainga
Aratangata	Stream	Kopu-Toroa	Stream
Atiki	Kainga	Koterara	Kainga
Awatapu	Lagoon	Kotoura	Kainga
Haumahangi	Occupied location	Koturua	Occupied location
Haumiaroa	Kainga	Koutu Roa	Pa
Heiomarama	Occupied location	Kupenga	Kainga
Hekinui	Occupied location	Kuti Kuti	Occupied location
Hikaretu	Kainga	Kutikuti-Rau	Kainga
Hokonui	Occupied location	Mahoe	Kainga
Hokorawa	Kainga	Mako Makonui	Kainga
Hokowhitu	Kainga	Manawa Kai Hiekie	Kainga
Hokowhitu	Ceremonial site	Manawatu	River
Hokowhitu	Reserve	Mangaone	Kainga
Hotaneiti	Cultivation	Manuwaru	Bush
Iwi Te Kai	Reserve	Marae Tarata	Pa
Iwihi	Papa kainga	Mararatapa	Pa

NAME	DESCRIPTION
Kahikatea	Kainga
Kahutara	Papa kainga
Kaimuapi	Occupied location
Kaingapipa	Kainga
Kai-Wahie	Kainga
Karamuremu	Kainga
Karanga Hiku	Kainga
Karatangiatu	Kainga
Karere	Kainga
Karere	Urupa
Karere	Lagoon
One-Poto	Kainga
Opaequete	Kainga
Opiki	Kainga
Oriko	Stream
Orua-rongo	Kainga
Otane	Kainga
Otangaki	Pa
Otangaki	Clearing
Otatara	Kainga
O-Tawhiti	Kainga
Otekura	Stream
Otini	Kainga
Pahiaroa	Kainga
Paiaka	Kainga
Pane-Iri	Pa
Papa Kino	Occupied location
Parahaki	Kainga
Paretao	Kainga
Pari-Kawau	Kainga
Pikau-Tahi	Pa
Pohue-Tangi	Kainga
Pokapoka	Kainga
Puka Puka	Occupied location
Tau Waka	Waka mooring
Taumata-O-Te-Poki	Site
Tauponga	Kainga
Tawa	Kainga
Te Ahitara	Pa
Te Aotahuna	Kainga
Te Apiti	Site
Te Apu	Kainga
Te Au Nui O Tonga	Site
Te Au Rere A Te Tonga	Site
Te Kairanga	Kainga
Te Kairanga	Pa
Te Kairanga	Papa kainga
Te Kapa-A-Haka	Kainga
Te Karaka	Kainga
Te Karaka	Occupied Location

NAME	DESCRIPTION
Marotira	Church
Mata Karapa	Pa
Mata-Ara	Kainga
Mikihi	Stream
Moengareha	Kainga
Mokomoko	Papa Kainga
Morotira	Kainga
Motua	Occupied location
Motuere	Occupied location
Moutoa	Post office location
Nga Totara	Fossil forest
Nga Wakahiamoe	Waka mooring
Nga Whakaraua	Pa
Ngataiwatea	Kainga
O-Hine-Kake-Ao	Area
Ohineninipeka	Ara Kiore
Okatia	Beach
Okehu	Kainga
Pukemahau	Kainga
Puketotara	Pa
Puketotara	Papa Kainga
Puru-rarauha	Kainga
Rameke	Whare
Rangi Po	Cultivation
Rongo-Karaka	Urupa
Roto Ngarara	Lagoon
Rotopiko	Lagoon
Ruahine	Range
Rua-Poho	Kainga
Ta Horo	Clearing
Tahitiki	Kainga
Tahumatarao	Kainga
Tai I Mate	Pa
Tai I Tahi	Kainga
Taioka	Kainga
Taita	Pa
Taita	Lagoon
Takupu	Kainga
Taringa Kurahaupo	Occupied location
Te Awa Kararoa	Occupied location
Te Awahou	Kainga
Te Awahou	Kainga
Te Awahou	Kainga
Te Awahuri	Kainga
Te Horo	Clearing
Te Kahihoe	Occupied location
Te Wi	Papa Kainga
Tiakitahuna	Pa
Tika Na Roa	Site River
Whirokino	Kainga

NAME	DESCRIPTION	NAME	DESCRIPTION
Te Karaka	Cultivation	Tikitiki	Kainga
Te Karekare	Pa	Titihuha	Kainga
Te Karihari	Papa Kainga	Toita	Occupied location
Te Kuri Kautete	Kainga	Tokitoki	Kainga
Te Kuripaka	Pa	Tokomaru	Kainga
Te Maire	Kainga	Tuapaka	Kainga
Te Maire	Lagoon	Tuapu	Occupied location
Te Matai	Pa	Turitea	Pa
Te Motu a Poutoa	Pa	Tutunanui Kainga	Kainga
Te Ngaio	Kainga	Tuturima	Kainga
Te Oranga-Tuturu	Kainga	Upoko-poutu	Kainga
Te Paiaka Kainga	Kainga	Waitamata	Kainga
Te Papa Ngaio	Pa	Waiteikai	Occupied location
Te Pehu	Site river	Whakapohepohe	Occupied location
Te Raka	Site	Whakaripa	Kainga
Te Rerenga-o-hau	Kainga	Whakatanguru	Kainga
Te Rewarewa	Area	Whakatero	Kainga
Te Waka Puni	Waka mooring	Whakatero	Kainga
Te Weka	Clearing	Whakatutu	Kainga
Te Weki	Clearing	Whakawaewae	Mound
Te Wharangi	Pa	Whakawehi	Kainga
Wharaoere	Occupied location		

As Rangitāne o Manawatu develop their capacity they look forward to the future and the time when they are fully engaged in upholding the principle of kaitiaki over the Manawatu River.

Mangahao River (as shown on deed plan OTS-182-24)

The Mangahao River is significant to Rangitāne o Manawatu both as a natural and spiritual resource. The Mangahao River flows from the central areas, Hanga o hia tangata, in the Tararua Ranges, along the Ranges, past a number of significant peaks such as Mairehau and Ngāwhakaraua connecting many of the rivers that then flow to the west and the east. The Mangahao River valley also provided an important access and route through the Tararua Ranges to the central areas for spiritual purposes and to gather natural resources. European explorations of the Ranges during the 1900's have also uncovered a number of artefacts in the vicinity of this area.

One of the most significant features of the river is the direct connection through the Ranges connecting many streams to carry Mauri from the ranges to the lowland areas below. However, the Mangahao River has been heavily altered and dammed during European settlement for industrial and power generation purposes.

The Mangahao and its tributaries (Tokomaru River and Mangaore Stream) were highly regarded sources of wai and kai and access ways into the Tararua Ranges.

The Mangahao River has been over time referred to as Moawhanga/Moawanga and Mongohao/Mangahao. The former names refer to the booming sound the river made through its course and to the area being a source of Mōa that were hunted in the area. Rangitāne (North Island) also refer to the Mangahao as being a source of (pure) water where the, now extinct, native freshwater fish (grayling) Upokororo was found in large numbers and gathered.

As Rangitāne o Manawatu develop their capacity they look forward to the future and the time when they are fully engaged in upholding the principle of kaitiaki over the Mangahao River.

Attachment 7: Comments received from invited Māori groups

Your written comments on a project under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

Project name	Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme
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Before the due date, for assistance on how to respond or about this template or with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) must be completed.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua		
*First name	Chrissy		
*Last name	Marshall		
Postal address	171 High Street, PO Box 97, 4930 Dannevirke		
*Contact phone number	s 9(2)(a)	Alternative	
*Email	s 9(2)(a)		

2. Please provide your comments on this application	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua (NKKTNAR) support the proposed Resource Consent renewal for the Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme, and thus the Fast Track Application. This application is to renew the consent and operations at the current site. 2. NKKTNAR have been engaging with the applicant: KCE/Manawa Energy in the re-consenting process. This engagement has been grounded in a Mātauranga Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua approach. 3. We are in support with the following understanding in place: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) It is NKKTNAR duty to listen and support the voices of our local whānau, hapū and advocate for their perspective in regards to this consent application. b) We have been commissioned (in principle) by the applicant to prepare a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) to best reflect our support for this resource application. c) We reserve the right for any recommendations from this CIA to be considered as part of this application, so that all issues can be identified and resolved accordingly. d) NKKTNAR request to speak verbally to this submission to the expert consenting panel. 	

INTRODUCTION

4. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua is the post settlement governance entity for the Ngāti Kahungunu iwi in Wairarapa and Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua. We completed our Treaty Settlement in 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/4fbdmxuu>
5. As part of our Treaty Settlement, the apology stated that: "The Crown looks forward to forging a renewed and enduring relationship with the people of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua that is grounded in mutual trust, co-operation, and respect for te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles."
6. NKKTNAR represent the interests of Ngāti Kahungunu iwi within Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua and the headwaters for the Mangahao Hydro-Power Scheme is within the legislated iwi boundaries.
7. Please accept this as our submission/comments, no Regulatory Authority has the Mandate to speak on behalf of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua.

STATEMENT OF KEY MATTERS

8. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua have engaged with KCE/Manawa Energy regarding the consent process for over 12 months. Engagement has been based on a Mātauranga Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua process, with a focus on relationship/co-operation and collaboration. This brings into perspective a dynamic of equity and reciprocity.
9. The headwaters of the Mangahao awa (which is crucial for the operations of this power scheme) are one of the forces that bring Kahungunutanga to life, 'Tihei Kahungunu!'. The connection in this area was one with the Atua Tangaroa, "Te Ika a Maui" the great fish of Maui which is now Aotearoa/New Zealand.
10. The Mangahao awa is the final resting place of the Pūtātara that Tangaroa left behind when the fish was pulled from the depths of his Domain. His Pūtātara/Conch/Trumpet was heard in the days prior to the hydro power schemes construction, and is heard during the backwash process, when the Awa runs at full force and the sound of the Pūtātara is heard as the water roars down through the Mangahao Gorge.
11. Atuaranga/O-nuku-rangi is not given the mana it deserves, as an iwi we expect to be able to work alongside western ecologists, where both strands of knowledge bring better enhanced health status back to our tipuna awa (Mangahao).
12. We have been commissioned in principle to do a Cultural Impact Assessment, which will explain and articulate how we see this working. Ultimately this will ensure the inclusion of Kahungunu Mātauranga during the drafting of this resource consent in particular to ecological conditions and allow for any issues to be remediated. We also propose the following:
 - a) that a "Suitably Qualified Experienced Person" be present alongside the consenting process. Suitably Qualified Person(s) (SQPs) are experienced individuals (such as ecologists and/or Kaitiaki/Poufaki) with an appropriate level of competency and training to implement a particular aspect of the Environmental Plan in relation to effects of the Mangahao hydro-electric power scheme.
 - b) NKKTNAR recommend that the SQEP includes (but not limited to) undertaking surveys, fauna salvage and management. Technical expertise could come from university qualifications and/or mātauranga.
 - c) That this application determines appropriate salvaging footprint and methodologies to be applied at each fauna management site (e.g. stream works, vegetation clearance).

d) Identification, knowledge and skills sufficiently developed to recognise potentially 'Threatened', 'At-Risk', or pest species that may be present within Power-Scheme / Site of operation.

e) Provide co-leadership and training opportunities to wider group of Kaitiaki/Pouaki.

13. As the process goes through the NBA fast track expert panel process under Fastrack, we will submit when necessary as the panel publicises each 'Minute'.

DECISION SOUGHT

14. That this proposed Consent Application that it is currently written and being applied for through the fast-tracked process proceed whilst the following actions occur:

- a) That consultation continues with applicant, and an agreement is formalised for a Cultural Impact Assessment to be undertaken
- b) That the applicant continues to engage with NKKTNAR and in good faith allow for any recommendations to be implemented in agreed upon conditions of this Resource Consent.

15. NKKTNAR request to speak verbally to this submission to the expert consenting pane

Note: All comments will be made available to the public and the applicant when the Ministry for the Environment proactively releases advice provided to the Minister for the Environment.

Managers signoff



Stacey Hape

Date 17/9/2025

Attachment 8: Comments received from the Minister for Māori Development and/or Minister for Māori Crown Relations

Mr Potaka's Comments - Saved # Portals-Fast Track Portal - ftaa-portal Submitted Portal Status

Feedback · FTA - Feedback Owner

General Documents Related ▼

Feedback Details

Feedback ID * FDB001556Z1V3

Title * Mr Potaka's Comments

Regarding [FTAA-2507-1086 Mangahao Hydro-Electric Power Scheme - section 18 report](#)

Comments

I support the application progressing to the Expert Panel for substantive application consideration subject to:

- the Expert Panel having regard to statutory acknowledgements when deciding whether the holder is an 'affected person' for the purposes of notification decisions under the RMA, as provided for in the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017;
- the Expert Panel fully complying with the procedural requirements of the deeds of recognition, that must have regard to the views of Rangitāne o Manawatū Settlement Trust relating to their association with the Manawatū River (and its tributaries) and the Mangahao River, as provided for under the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016;
- the applicant considering giving effect to the response from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua; and
- ongoing engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū, Rangitāne Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua, Muaūpoko and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga.