

IN THE MATTER of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the **FTAA**)

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Fast Track Application **Central and Southern Mining Block [FTAA-2512-1153]**

RESPONSE TO PANEL CONVENER'S MINUTE 1 - Central and Southern Mining Block [FTAA-2512-1153]

Dated: 18 March 2026

1. Waikato Regional Council (WRC) is in receipt of the Minute 1 with respect to the Panel Convener's Conference for the above Fast Track application and confirms representatives will attend the meeting scheduled on Thursday 19 March 2026.
2. WRC has been requested to respond to a number of matters and these are addressed below.
3. Minute 1 requests WRC to comment on the level of complexity including any novel or difficult legal issues, any evidential or factual complexity.
4. Overall, the proposal is considered to be moderately complex in the sense that the setback distances from sensitive receptors requires careful consideration to ensure effects are appropriately and adequately managed.
5. WRC's position on wet mining is that Taharoa Ironsands Limited's (TIL) application for resource consent made to the local authority in 2000 did not include wet-mining activities and could not have been amended to include wet-mining activities, that being outside the scope of the resource consent application. Through its application before the local authority, TIL sought authorisation for the taking of surface water. Those two consents for the taking of surface water specifically related to the taking of water from a water supply reservoir created by the damming of the Wainui Stream. Therefore, the scope of the application did not include the taking of surface water from anywhere else.
6. TIL has included the wet mining activity into this fast track application as such this legal matter is no longer in contention.
7. Minute 1 requests WRC to identify the principal issues in contention or other disputed matters.

8. WRC considers that the following matters remain in contention:

- **Management of air discharges to avoid dust nuisance and setback distances**
 - from the boundaries of third-party properties;
 - from the Mitiwai Stream; and
 - from all natural inland wetlands.
- **On-going rehabilitation of the site**
- **Water intake screen mesh**
- **Residual flow rate in the Wainui Stream**
- **Stock fencing**
- **Flooding on public road**
- **Collection and monitoring of data within the coastal environment**
- **Reporting to third parties**

9. Minute 1 requests WRC discuss the extent to which the draft proposed consent conditions (including any draft management plan filed) is accepted.

10. WRC received notice of this minute at 3.34pm Friday 13 March 2026 and whilst a thorough review of the proposed conditions has not yet been undertaken WRC's initial view is that other than for the matters identified above the conditions generally reflect the decision of the Council made in December 2024.

11. Minute 1 also requests WRC propose efficient processes to enable the panel to understand, resolve or narrow the scope of any likely issues and indicate how these processes may be accommodated within the decision timeframe.

12. WRC staff consider that the process is likely to benefit from expert caucusing on the following matters:

- **Appropriate setback distances**
- **On-going rehabilitation of the site**
- **Wainui Stream – identification of an appropriate residual flow rate**
- **Flooding on public road**
- **Collection of data and appropriate monitoring within the coastal environment**
- **Discussion on appropriate conditions to address the above matters**

13. WRC thanks the Hearing Convener for the ability to provide input at this early stage of the process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AnaMaria d'Aubert', written in a cursive style.

AnaMaria d'Aubert

Manager - Regional Councils

Resource Use Directorate