

17 December 2025

Environmental Protection Authority
Private Bag 63002
Wellington 6140
NEW ZEALAND

Teena koe

GREEN STEEL PROJECT – RESPONSE TO MINUTE 8

Waikato-Tainui acknowledges that information has been raised with the Panel indicating that human remains were discovered in the vicinity of the proposed site in the 1970s. In accordance with our previously reserved right to provide iwi-specific commentary, Waikato-Tainui places this information on record, for completeness and transparency, for consideration in the context of iwi-wide cultural and heritage responsibilities.

Tai Tumu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao provides clear guidance on the protection and management of waahi tapu, waahi tuupuna, and other taonga, including Policy 16.3.3.3, which requires Waikato-Tainui involvement in managing waahi tapu / waahi tuupuna, and Objective 16.3.4, which establishes procedures to ensure that any discovery of kooiwi/urupaa or other taonga is appropriately protected and engaged with. The historical discovery of human remains in this area is therefore relevant to the application and to the assessment of potential effects on iwi-wide interests.

Waikato-Tainui emphasises that this commentary does not substitute for or override the cultural authority of Ngaa Muka, who retain the mandate to advise on site-specific matters. We note that the Applicant has provided follow-up information regarding the kooiwi at the Panel's request, and that Nga Muka will provide the historical context and outline how this matter was addressed as part of previous resource consent applications. On that basis, we consider it appropriate that the Panel take this information into account when assessing the matter, while continuing to respect Ngaa Muka's guidance on site-specific cultural issues. It would also be useful to have a clear timeline of events leading up to this point, noting that the issue could potentially have been addressed by the Applicant prior to the substantive lodgement.

Naaku i roto i ngaa mihi, naa

T Mapu

Te Maakariini Mapu
SENIOR PLANNER
WAIKATO-TAINUI