



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

Project Name: FTAA-2604-1213 Hokonui Wind Farm

To:	Date:
Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure	17/08/2026

Number of attachments: 6	Attachments: - Provisions of section 18 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 - Project location map - List of relevant Māori groups - Mataura River statutory acknowledgement provisions from the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 - Ōreti River statutory acknowledgement provisions from the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 - Comments received from Kā Rūnaka – Hokonui Rūnanga, Waihōpai Rūnaka, Te Rūnaka o Awarua, and Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka
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Key points

- The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport (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 FTAA-2604-1213 Hokonui Wind Farm referral application.
- The applicant, Hokonui Hills Wind Farm Limited Partnership, proposes to develop a 500 megawatts capacity wind farm comprising 83 wind turbines on the Hokonui Hills near Mandeville, approximately 20km west of Gore in Southland. The applicant is seeking a range of resource consents under the Act that would otherwise be sought under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The applicant may also seek approvals under the

Wildlife Act 1953, Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, and Conservation Act 1987.

3. A block of identified Māori land owned by Hokonui Endowment Trust is surrounded by, but not included in, the project area.
4. 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 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as a relevant iwi authority and Treaty settlement entity, Hokonui Rūnanga, Waihōpai Rūnaka, Te Rūnaka o Awarua, and Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima as relevant Treaty settlement entities, and Te Ao Mārama Incorporated as another Māori group with relevant interests, which we have listed at **Attachment 3**.
5. The Treaty settlement relevant to this application is the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. We have not identified any other obligations such as Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements.
6. Schedules 42 and 50 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 provide for statutory acknowledgements over the Maitai River and the Ōreti River respectively. The project area includes tributaries of both rivers.
7. As statutory acknowledgements under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 do not extend to any tributary flowing into a river, unless expressly provided for in the relevant schedule, we do not consider you (or any panel considering a substantive application) are required to comply with procedural requirements concerning this statutory acknowledgement. Nevertheless, it has become common practice in subsequent Treaty settlements for statutory acknowledgements over waterways to include tributaries. This approach is consistent with the holistic Māori worldview of water. You may wish to consider this in the context of the statutory acknowledgements held by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu over waterways downstream of the project area.
8. Under the RMA and the relevant Treaty settlements, 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. We consider the process of inviting comment (including providing information about the application) from these groups under the Act is comparable to the requirements for statutory acknowledgements under the RMA and Treaty settlements.
9. In any case, you have already invited Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, as a relevant iwi authority and Treaty settlement entity, and Hokonui Rūnanga, Waihōpai Rūnaka, Te Rūnaka o Awarua, and Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima as relevant Treaty settlement entities, to comment on the application. Should you accept this referral application, these groups will also be invited for comment by the panel on a substantive application under section 53(2)(c) of the Act.
10. In response to the invitation for Māori groups to comment under section 17(1)(d) of the Act, you received comments on the application from Kā Rūnaka, comprising the Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga of Hokonui Rūnanga, Waihōpai Rūnaka, Te Rūnaka o Awarua, and Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima. Kā Rūnaka's comments emphasised the importance of Kā Rūnaka's kaitiaki role, balancing development with environmental responsibility, undertaking early and meaningful engagement with mana whenua, and Kā Rūnaka involvement in the section 18 report.

11. 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.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is positioned above the printed name.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Introduction

12. Under section 18 of the Act, you must consider a report on Treaty settlements and other obligations for each referral application, prepared and provided by the responsible agency (Secretary for the Environment).
13. 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 and further information 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.
14. This report is structured accordingly. We have provided a list of the relevant provisions of section 18 at **Attachment 1**.

Proposed project

15. The applicant, Hokonui Hills Wind Farm Limited Partnership, proposes to develop and operate the Hokonui Wind Farm in the Hokonui Hills near Mandeville, approximately 20km west of Gore in Southland. The wind farm will cover an area of approximately 11,000 hectares and comprise 83 wind turbines on towers up to 150 metres high with a maximum potential blade tip height of up to 240 metres above ground level. Each wind turbine will have a maximum generating capacity of between 6.25 and 8 megawatts. The wind farm will have a total generating capacity of up to 500 megawatts and generate approximately 1,905 gigawatt hours of electricity per year. The project includes development of internal access roads, 33 kilovolt underground and overhead collector cable systems, two substations, a switching station, and two 220 kilovolt transmission lines to provide connection to the National Grid.
16. The land on which the development is proposed is owned by private interests except for a tract of public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC), which the applicant may seek to use by way of land exchange or concession. A block of identified Māori land owned by the Hokonui Endowment Trust¹ directly adjoins the project area on Otapiri-Mandeville Road.
17. The applicant is seeking a range of resource consents under the Act that would otherwise be sought under the RMA, which may include vegetation clearance, earthworks, discharge of contaminants or water to a waterbody, discharge of cleanfill, taking, use, damming or diversion of surface water, placement of structures and other works in riverbeds and wetlands, upgrading or construction of transmission lines, transformers, substations and switching stations, and other matters.
18. The applicant may also seek wildlife authorities for disturbance, catching, holding, and releasing protected wildlife under the Wildlife Act 1953, a complex freshwater fisheries activity approval for excluding fish passage at identified culverts under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, a 'global' archaeological authority covering the entire project

¹ The Hokonui Endowment Trust is administered by Hokonui Rūnanga.

area under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, and concessions for easements over, and use of, public conservation land under the Conservation Act 1987.

19. We have provided a location maps at **Attachment 2**.

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

20. 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

21. Under section 4(2) of the Act, 'iwi authority' has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the RMA:

the authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so.

22. We consider the following groups to be the relevant iwi authorities for the project area:

- a. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, representing Ngāi Tahu.

Treaty settlement entities

23. 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).

24. Under the Act, a PSGE:

(a) means a body corporate or the trustees of a trust established, for the purpose of receiving redress in the Treaty settlement of a claimant group,—

(i) by that group; or

(ii) by or under an enactment or order of a court; and

(b) includes—

(i) an entity established to represent a collective or combination of claimant groups; and

(ii) an entity controlled by an entity referred to in paragraph (a); and

(iii) an entity controlled by a hapū to which redress has been transferred by an entity referred to in paragraph (a).

25. In keeping with the procedural principles outlined at section 10 of the Act, we only identify those PSGEs which are specified in the relevant Treaty settlement Act or Treaty settlement deed.²

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

- a. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, representing Ngāi Tahu, PSGE for the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998;
- b. Hokonui Rūnanga, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998;
- c. Waihōpai Rūnaka, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998;
- d. Te Rūnanga o Awarua, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998; and
- e. Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima, Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu Whānui as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Groups mandated to negotiate Treaty settlements

27. There are no groups which have recognised mandates to negotiate a Treaty settlement over an area which may include the project area. All historical claims under te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi have been settled in respect of the project area.

Takutai Moana groups and ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou

28. 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.

29. 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

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

31. However, the project area is located upstream of the Maitai River Mātaihai Reserve situated on the Maitai River at the township of Maitai. The Maitai River Mātaihai Reserve was established by Fisheries (Declaration of Mātaihai Reserve at Maitai River and Appointment of Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki) Notice 2005 (No. F329), pursuant to the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999 and Part 9 of the Fisheries Act 1996.

² Should a panel be made aware of a Treaty settlement entity established after the Treaty settlement Act is enacted (e.g. on the advice of a PSGE), then there would appear to be nothing to prevent the panel from inviting that entity to comment on the application under section 53(2)(c) of the Act.

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

32. 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.
33. 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

34. 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.
35. We have not identified any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements that are relevant to the project area, and accordingly there no parties to these arrangements to identify.

Any other Māori groups with relevant interests

36. We consider the following entity as a Māori group with relevant interests, as they may represent the papatipu rūnanga on environmental and other matters in the project area:
- a. Te Ao Mārama Incorporated (TAMI).
37. The applicant advises that the project will be developed alongside Hokonui Rūnanga, who are a financial partner of the project and have a prepared the cultural values statement for it. The applicant also advises that they have commenced engagement with TAMI, who represent the four Murihiku papatipu rūnanga on environmental and other matters. An agreement has been prepared for TAMI to undertake a cultural Impact assessment for the project.

Relevant principles and provisions in Treaty settlements and other arrangements

Treaty settlements

38. 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.
39. The following Treaty settlements relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area:
- a. Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Relevant principles and provisions

40. 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

41. Through a series of acknowledgements and an apology to Ngāi Tahu, the Crown acknowledged its historical actions that breached te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi. The Crown apologised to Ngāi Tahu for its past failures to acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rangatiratanga and mana over the South Island lands within its boundaries, and, in fulfilment of its Treaty obligations, the Crown recognised Ngāi Tahu as the tangata whenua of, and as holding rangatiratanga within, the takiwā of Ngāi Tahu Whānui.
42. The Crown apology also stated that the Crown intended to atone for these acknowledged injustices, and to begin the process of healing and to enter a new age of co-operation with Ngāi Tahu. The redress provided in the Ngāi Tahu settlement should be viewed in the context of these intentions.

Statutory Acknowledgements

43. As one of the first comprehensive settlements of historical claims, the Ngāi Tahu settlement pre-dated some of the redress mechanisms which have subsequently been developed for use in later settlements to provide for participation by iwi and hapū in decision-making over natural resources. However, the Ngāi Tahu settlement was the first settlement to include statutory acknowledgements, which are an acknowledgement by the Crown of a 'statement of association' between the iwi and an identified area (the 'statutory area').
44. We have checked the project area in relation to statutory acknowledgements held by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, particularly over waterways. The Ngāi Tahu Settlement Claims Act 1998 provides for statutory acknowledgements over the Maitai River (Schedule 42) and Ōreti River (Schedule 50). The eastern part of the project area is predominantly drained by the Otamaiti Stream and its tributaries, which flows into the Maitai River. The western part of the project area is predominantly drained by Taylors Stream and Lora Stream and their tributaries, which ultimately flow into the Makarewa River, and then Ōreti River.
45. The application information indicates that the project requires substantial earthworks, such as building access roads, turbine bases, hardstands, laydown areas, and power lines. It will also involve operating heavy machinery, storage and use of fuel and other hazardous materials, working in stream beds and on unvegetated surfaces, and the risk of sediment and other contaminants running off into local waterways and tributaries of the Maitai and Ōreti Rivers.
46. The applicant states that a construction environmental management plan, best practice erosion and sediment control measures, dust management, and other interventions will be implemented to address potential sediment and contamination issues in waterways.
47. Under the RMA and the relevant settlement Acts, a consent authority must, when considering a resource consent for a proposed activity that is within, adjacent to, or directly 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.³
48. The holder of a statutory acknowledgment may also cite this as evidence of their association with a statutory area in any submission before a relevant consent authority (or the Environment Court, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, the Environmental Protection Authority, or a board of inquiry), which may, in turn, take that statutory acknowledgement into account.
 49. The statutory areas are limited to the main branch of the Maitai and Ōreti Rivers. Under section 205 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, statutory acknowledgements for a river do not include any tributary flowing into a river, unless expressly provided to the contrary in the description of a particular river contained in the relevant schedule of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. Schedule 42 provides for the statutory acknowledgment over the Maitai River but does not refer to tributaries. Similarly, the Ōreti River statutory acknowledgment provided for by Schedule 50 does not refer to the Makarewa River or other tributaries.
 50. We note it has become common practice in subsequent Treaty settlements for statutory acknowledgements over waterways to include tributaries. This approach is consistent with the concept in Te Ao Māori of ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea), whereby water is viewed in a holistic way, and should be managed accordingly.
 51. In any case, the activities outlined in paragraph 46, could potentially affect the Maitai and Ōreti Rivers, thereby bringing the statutory acknowledgment provisions outlined at paragraphs 47 and 48 into play.
 52. We consider the process of inviting comment (including providing information about the application) under the Act is comparable to the process under a Treaty settlement and the RMA of providing those who hold statutory acknowledgements with a summary of the application. You have already invited Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, as the relevant iwi authority and Treaty settlement entity, to comment on the application. Should you accept this referral application, these groups will also be invited for comment by the panel on a substantive application under section 53(2)(c) of the Act.
 53. For your reference, we have provided the statutory acknowledgements provisions from the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act for the Maitai River (Schedule 42) and Ōreti River (Schedule 50) at **Attachments 4** and **5**, respectively.

Deeds of recognition

54. In addition to the statutory acknowledgements, the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 provides for deeds of recognition over the Maitai and Ōreti Rivers to be entered into between Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Minister of the Crown responsible for the management or administration of the land within a statutory area, or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as the case may be.
55. A deed of recognition requires the relevant Crown agency to consult with, and have regard to the views of, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu when undertaking specified activities relating to

³ 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.

the statutory area. These activities primarily relate to the preparation of management plans or strategies but may also include considering applications for rights of use or occupation, for example.

56. We do not consider these provisions are relevant to this application, as Land Information New Zealand, on behalf of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, is not undertaking any of the activities covered by the deeds of recognition, nor is the applicant seeking use rights or occupation in relation to the Crown-owned parts of the riverbed subject to the deed of recognition.

Conservation protocol

57. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 provides for the Minister of Conservation to issue a protocol which sets out how the DOC will exercise its functions, powers, and duties in relation to specified matters within the Ngāi Tahu claim area, and how DOC will interact with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and provide for their input into DOC's decision-making process.

58. We note the applicant may seek the following approvals from DOC:

- a. wildlife authorities for disturbance, catching, holding, and releasing of protected lizard and terrestrial invertebrate species, as well as bird-strike by wind turbines, under the Wildlife Act 1953;
- b. a complex freshwater fisheries activity approval for excluding fish passage at identified culverts to protect native aquatic species from exotic predators under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983; and
- c. concessions for easements over a marginal strip at Otamita Stream for a culvert and transmission line, and for establishing wind turbines on public conservation land, or approval for a land exchange to achieve the same, under the Conservation Act 1987.

59. While the current version of the protocol which covers the project area provides for engagement with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu on certain matters⁴, in general it does not address the types of conservation-related approvals sought by the applicant (i.e. wildlife authorities, complex freshwater fisheries activity approval, and concession or exchanges in respect of public conservation land).

Taonga species

60. The Crown has also acknowledged the special association of Ngāi Tahu with certain taonga species of birds, plants and animals. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 contains several other provisions relating to taonga species, including a requirement that the Minister of Conservation consult with, and have particular regard to, the views of, Te

⁴ The protocol specifies the following matters: cultural materials; freshwater fisheries; culling of species of interest to Ngāi Tahu; historic resources; visitor and public information; RMA involvement; and amendment and review provisions from the Deed. The freshwater fisheries provisions cover engagement with Ngāi Tahu on the establishment of customary fisheries regulations (i.e. the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999), and consultation on the conservation and management of, and research into, freshwater fisheries, but not in relation to decision-making on approvals. The protocol provisions relating to the RMA are about working with DOC on advocacy regarding the environmental effects of activities controlled and managed under the RMA, and are unlikely to be directly relevant to this application. The latest version of the protocol is appended to the Southland Murihiku Conservation Management Strategy 2016 Volume 1 at pages 297-314: [Southland Murihiku Conservation Management Strategy 2016](#)

Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu when making policy decisions concerning the protection, management, or conservation of a taonga species.

61. The application information indicates that several taonga species listed in Schedules 97 and 98 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 have been identified or may potentially be present in the project area.
62. The application advises that pīwakawaka / fantail, kāhu / Australasian harrier, kererū / NZ pigeon, riroriro/ grey warbler, and miromiro / tomtit have been observed in the project area. These birds are listed in Schedule 97 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. The applicant has not identified any taonga plant species; however, several plants listed in Schedule 97 are known to be present in the Hokonui Hills, for example, wī / silver tussock, wīwī / rushes, taramea / speargrass, harakeke / NZ flax, and tī kōuka / cabbage tree.
63. Additionally, the Ngāi Tahu deed of settlement lists other customary “Non-commercially Harvested Species” that are likely to be in the project area. These species and their associated conservation status include kanakana/ute southern lamprey (Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable), tuna kūwharuwharu / NZ longfin eel (At Risk - Declining), kākahi / NZ freshwater mussel (At Risk - Declining), and kēwai / southern freshwater crayfish (At Risk - Declining).
64. We note the application seeks authorities under the Wildlife Act 1953 for the disturbing and handling lizards and terrestrial invertebrates. Lizards and terrestrial invertebrates are not included amongst the taonga species in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. We also note the applicant may seek a complex freshwater fisheries activities approval under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 for culvert works. Construction activities in waterways may have potential to affect the culturally significant aquatic species identified above.
65. Although the settlement provisions regarding taonga species do not place any procedural requirements on you, or any panel considering a substantive application, in relation to the approvals being sought by the applicant, the redress illustrates the importance of these species to Ngāi Tahu. Accordingly, a panel may wish to take taonga species into consideration.
66. Ultimately, 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

67. 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

68. 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, but is upstream of the Maitai River Mātaitai Reserve established pursuant to the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999.
69. The purpose of the Mātaitai Reserves is to sustainably manage kai moana health and population within the specified area. The Fisheries (Declaration of Mātaitai Reserve at Maitai River and Appointment of Tangata Tiaki/Kaitiaki) Notice 2005 (No. F329) prohibits

commercial fishing within the Mātaura Mātaitai Reserve, and provides that the tangata kaitiaki/tiaki appointed for the Reserve may authorise any individual to take fisheries resources, managed under the Fisheries Act 1996, for customary food-gathering purposes from within the Reserve. Should this application be accepted for referral, a panel may wish to consider whether the substantive application would affect the Mātaitai Reserve and the exercise of customary fishing. Tangata whenua are likely best placed to advise the panel on this matter.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe/Joint management agreement

70. 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

71. Pursuant to section 17(1)(d) of the Act, on 26 June 2026 you invited written comments from the Māori groups identified above in paragraphs 22 to 36, from a list we previously provided you. These groups were provided with access to the application material and had 15 working days from receipt of the copy of the application to respond.

72. You received comments on the application from Ka Rūnaka, comprising the Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga of Hokonui Rūnanga, Waihōpai Rūnaka, Te Rūnaka o Awarua, and Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka, which can be summarised as follows:

a. Kā Rūnaka affirm that:

- i. Ka Rūnaka take their role as environmental kaitiaki seriously and want to play a leading role to advance the interests of their whānau and the communities that they are part of and live within;
- ii. Ka Rūnaka support development in their takiwā because it creates opportunities for their whānau and communities, but balance this with the responsibility to ensure the environment is treated with respect and care;
- iii. As mana whenua, Ka Rūnaka are likely to be impacted by this project;
- iv. Early and meaningful engagement with Ka Rūnaka usually enables any issues and barriers to be resolved;
- v. A process agreement has been developed by Kā Rūnaka for engagement with TAMI on behalf of Ka Rūnaka;
- vi. Hokonui Hills Wind Farm Limited Partnership has begun consultation with Kā Rūnaka;
- vii. Kā Rūnaka have not provided approval to any party in relation to this application under the RMA or Fast-track Act; and

Consultation with departments

73. We sought advice previously from Te Puni Kōkiri and the Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana – Te Tari Whakatau regarding the relevant Māori groups in this area, and have incorporated their views into this report.

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

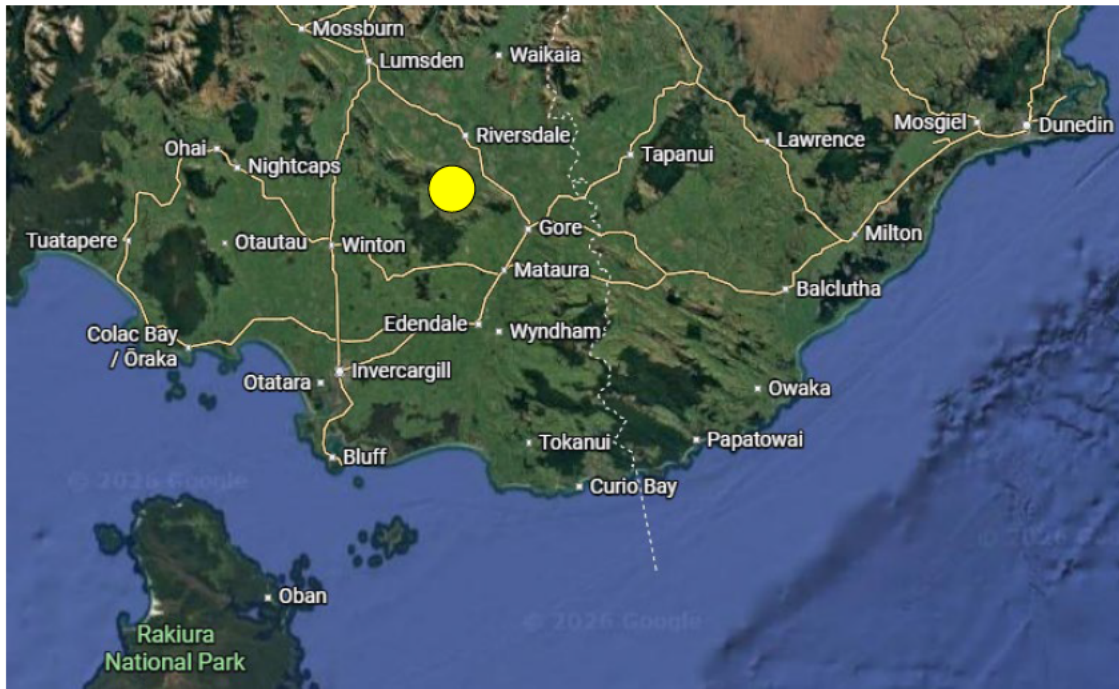
74. Under section 18(2)(m), this report must include our advice on whether, due to any of the matters identified in section 18, it may be more appropriate to deal with the matters that would be authorised by the proposed approvals under another Act or Acts.
75. We do not consider there are any matters 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, consider a report that is prepared and provided by the responsible agency in accordance with this section.	12, 13
18(2)(a)	Any relevant iwi authorities and relevant Treaty settlement entities	22, 26
18(2)(b)	Any Treaty settlements that relate to land, species of plants or animals, or other resources within the project area	39
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	40-66
18(2)(d)	Any recognised negotiation mandates for, or current negotiations for, Treaty settlements that relate to the project area.	27
18(2)(e)	Any court orders or agreements that recognise protected customary rights or customary marine title within the project area.	28, 67
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.	28, 67
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).	29, 67
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).	30, 31, 68, 69
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).	33
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), (i) iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to any relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements.	35, 70

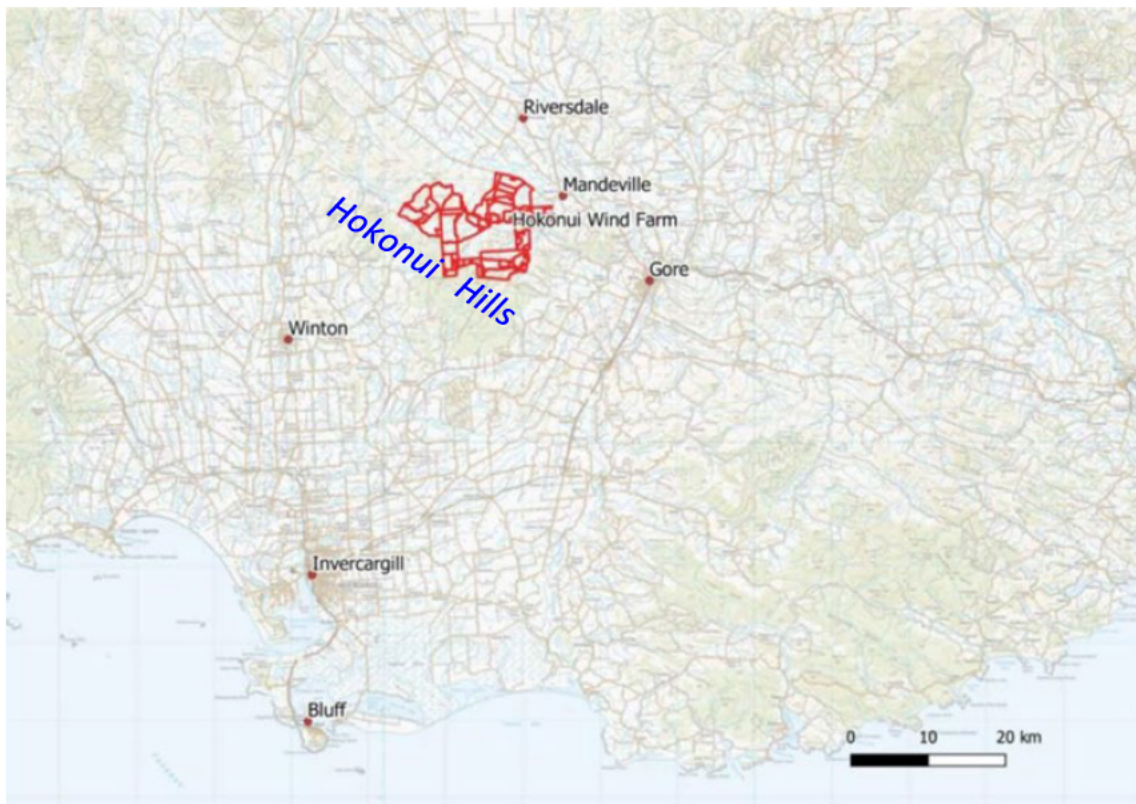
	(ii) The relevant principles and provisions in those Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and joint management agreements.	
18(2)(k)	Any other Māori groups with relevant interests.	36
18(2)(l)	A summary of— (i) comments received by the Minister after inviting comments from Māori groups under section 17(1)(d) and (e); (ii) any further information received by the Minister from those groups	71, 72
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.	75
18(3)	In preparing the report required by this section, the responsible agency must consult relevant departments.	73
18(4)	The responsible agency must provide the report to the Minister not later than 20 working days after the date for providing comments under section 17(6).	N/A
18(5)	However, if the Minister requests further information about a referral application under section 20, the time period specified in subsection (4) ceases to run for the period of time specified in the request.	N/A

Attachment 2: Project location maps



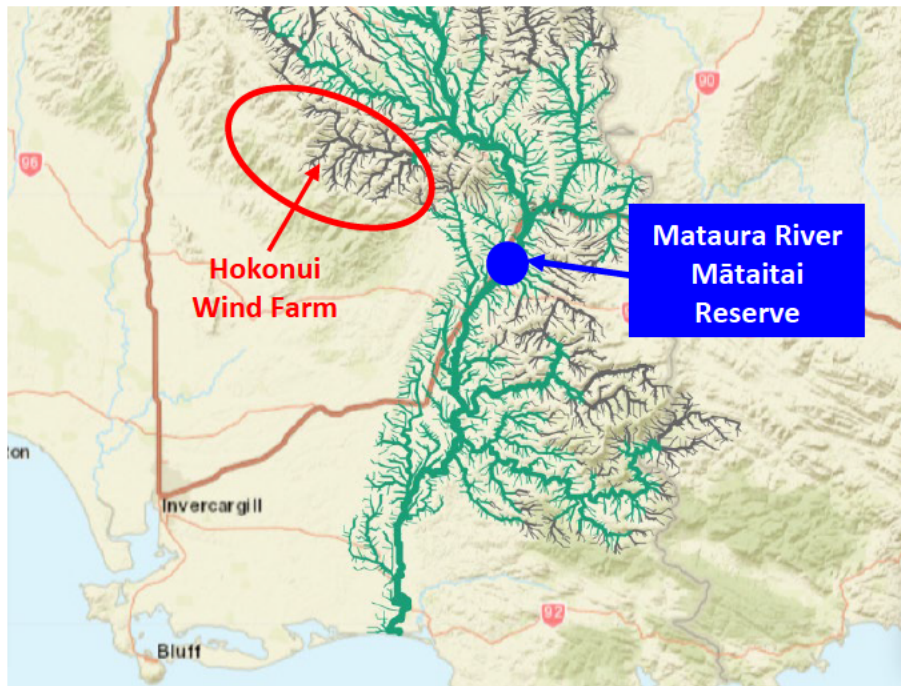
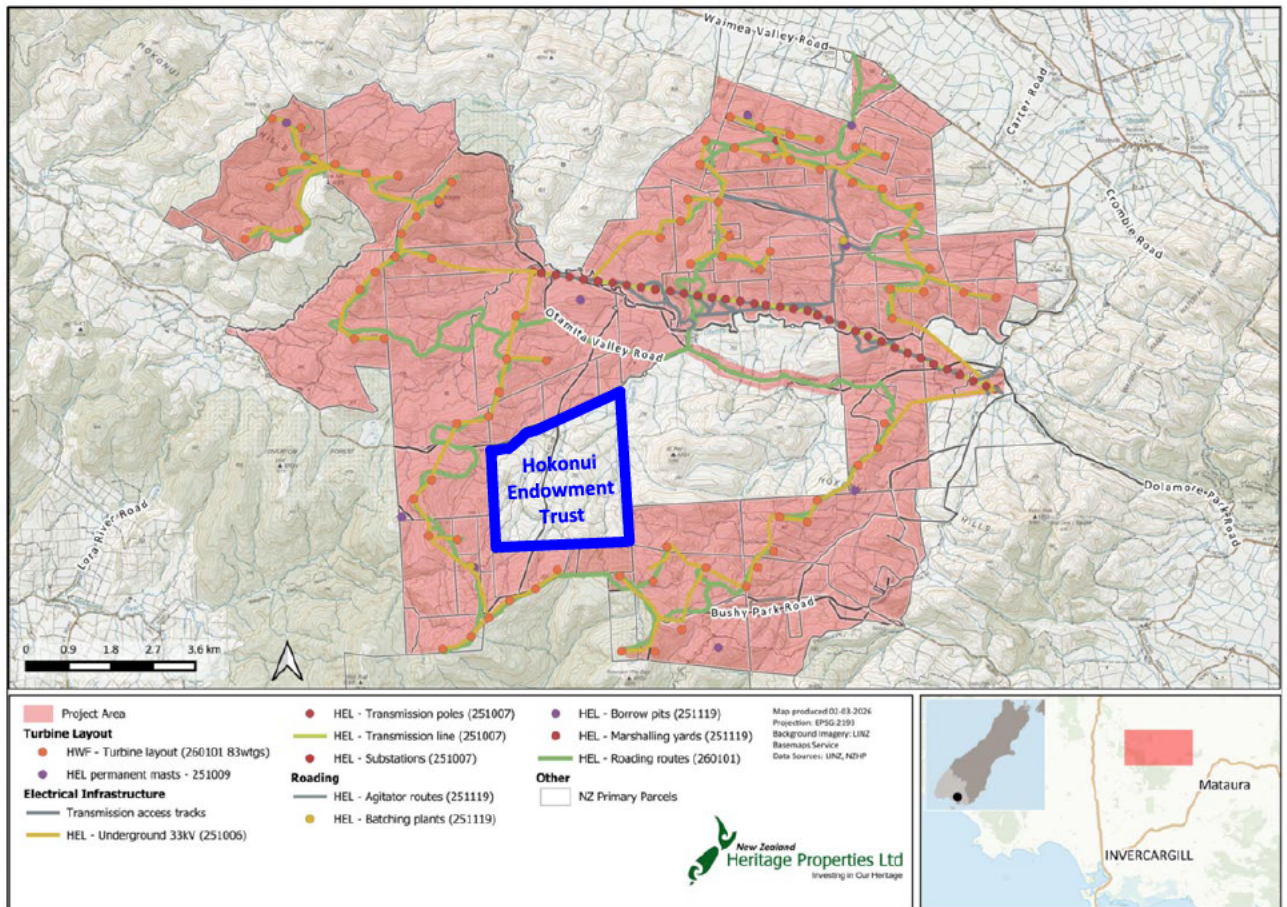
Map 1. Location of proposed Hokonui Wind Farm.

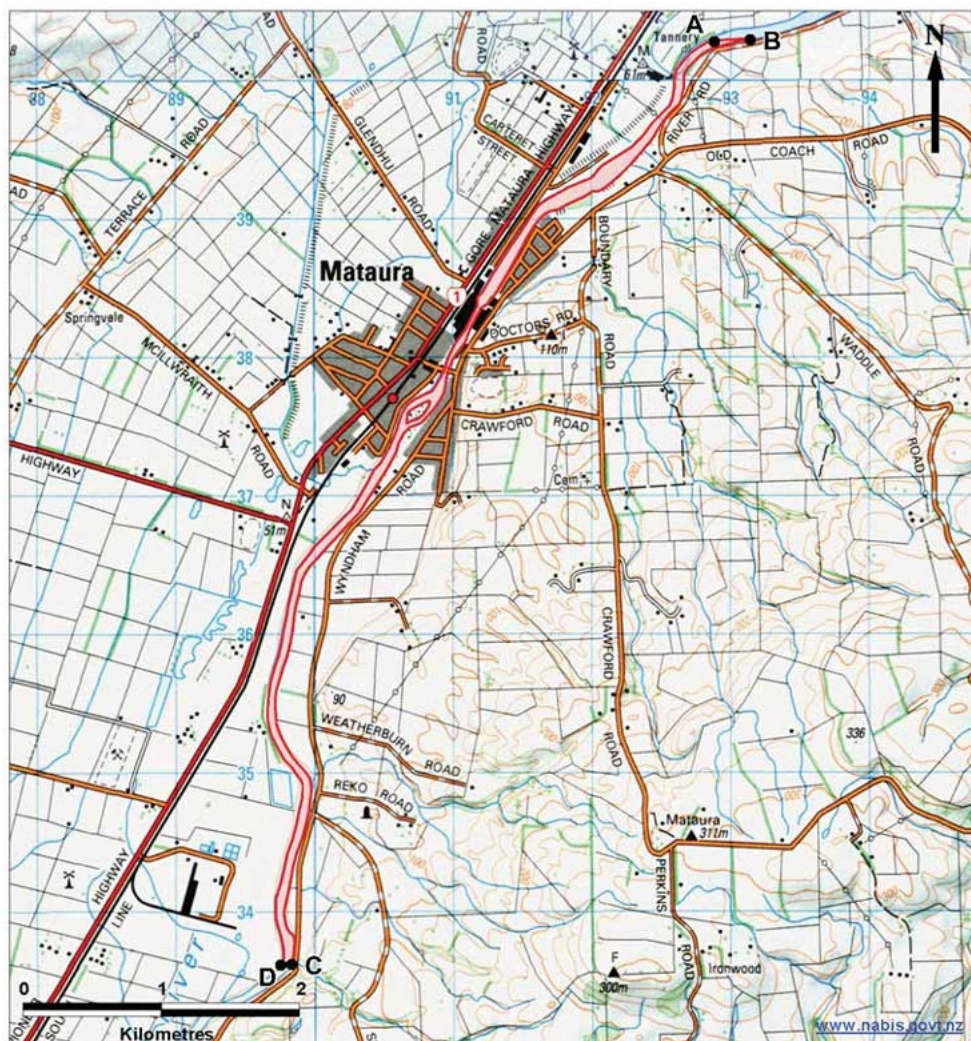
Source: Adapted from Google Maps 2026



Map 2. Regional setting showing the footprint and scale of the proposed Hokonui Wind Farm.

Source: Adapted from Mitchell Dyer 2026





Map 5. Location of Matura River Mātaimai Reserve at Matura township shown by red making above.

Source: Ministry of Fisheries 2011

Attachment 3: List of relevant Māori groups

Name of group	Type of group (section of Act)
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	Iwi authority (s18(2)(a)); Treaty settlement entity – Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (s18(2)(a))
Hokonui Rūnanga	Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga – Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a))
Waihōpai Rūnaka	Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga – Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a))
Te Rūnanga o Awarua	Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga – Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a))
Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima	Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga – Treaty settlement entity (s18(2)(a))
Te Ao Mārama Incorporated	Entity owned by Papatipu Rūnanga – other Māori group with relevant interests (s18(2)(k))

Attachment 4: Mataura River statutory acknowledgement provisions from the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

Schedule 42 Statutory acknowledgement for Mataura River

ss 205, 206

Statutory area

The statutory area to which this statutory acknowledgement applies is the river known as Mataura, the location of which is shown on Allocation Plan MD 125 (SO 12264).

Preamble

Under [section 206](#), the Crown acknowledges Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu's statement of Ngāi Tahu's cultural, spiritual, historic, and traditional association to the Mataura River, as set out below.

Ngāi Tahu association with the Mataura River

The area of the Mataura River above the Mataura Falls was traditionally used by the descendants of the Ngāti Mamoe chief, Parapara Te Whenua. The descendants of Parapara Te Whenua incorporate the lines of Ngāti Kuri from which the Mamaru family of Moeraki descend. Another famous tupuna associated with the river was Kiritekatake, the daughter of Parapara Te Whenua. Kiritekatake was captured by Ngāi Tahu at Te Anau and her descendants make up the lines of many of the Ngāi Tahu families at Ōtākou.

For Ngāi Tahu, histories such as these reinforce tribal identity and solidarity, and continuity between generations, and document the events which shaped the environment of Te Wai Pounamu and Ngāi Tahu as an iwi.

The Mataura was an important mahinga kai, noted for its indigenous fishery. The Mataura Falls were particularly associated with the taking of kanakana (lamprey). The tūpuna had considerable knowledge of whakapapa, traditional trails and tauranga waka, places for gathering kai and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of Mataura, the relationship of people with the river and their dependence on it, and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilisation of resources. All of these values remain important to Ngāi Tahu today.

The mauri of the Mataura represents the essence that binds the physical and spiritual elements of all things together, generating and upholding all life. All elements of the natural environment possess a life force, and all forms of life are related. Mauri is a critical element of the spiritual relationship of Ngāi Tahu Whānui with the river.

Purposes of statutory acknowledgement

Pursuant to [section 215](#), and without limiting the rest of this schedule, the only purposes of this statutory acknowledgement are —

- (a) to require that consent authorities forward summaries of resource consent applications to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as required by regulations made pursuant to [section 207](#) (clause 12.2.3 of the deed of settlement); and
- (b) to require that consent authorities, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, or the Environment Court, as the case may be, have regard to this statutory acknowledgement in relation to the Mataura River, as provided in [sections 208 to 210](#) (clause 12.2.4 of the deed of settlement); and
- (c) to empower the Minister responsible for management of the Mataura River or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as the case may be, to enter into a Deed of Recognition as provided in [section 212](#) (clause 12.2.6 of the deed of settlement); and
- (d) to enable Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and any member of Ngāi Tahu Whānui to cite this statutory acknowledgement as evidence of the association of Ngāi Tahu to the Mataura River as provided in [section 211](#) (clause 12.2.5 of the deed of settlement).

Limitations on effect of statutory acknowledgement

Except as expressly provided in [sections 208 to 211](#), [213](#), and [215](#),—

- (a) this statutory acknowledgement does not affect, and is not to be taken into account in, the exercise of any power, duty, or function by any person or entity under any statute, regulation, or bylaw; and
- (b) without limiting paragraph (a), no person or entity, in considering any matter or making any decision or recommendation under any statute, regulation, or bylaw, may give any greater or lesser weight to Ngāi Tahu's association to the Mataura River (as described in this statutory acknowledgement) than that person or entity would give under the relevant statute, regulation, or bylaw, if this statutory acknowledgement did not exist in respect of the Mataura River.

Except as expressly provided in this Act, this statutory acknowledgement does not affect the lawful rights or interests of any person who is not a party to the deed of settlement.

Except as expressly provided in this Act, this statutory acknowledgement does not, of itself, have the effect of granting, creating, or providing evidence of any estate or interest in, or any rights of any kind whatsoever relating to, the Maitāwhiri River.

Schedule 42: amended, on 20 May 2014, by [section 107](#) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (2014 No 26).

The entire Settlement Act can be found at this link: [Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 | New Zealand Legislation](#)

Attachment 5: Ōreti River statutory acknowledgement provisions from the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

Schedule 50 Statutory acknowledgement for Ōreti River

ss 205, 206

Statutory area

The statutory area to which this statutory acknowledgement applies is the river known as Ōreti, the location of which is shown on Allocation Plan MD 123 (SO 12262).

Preamble

Under [section 206](#), the Crown acknowledges Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu's statement of Ngāi Tahu's cultural, spiritual, historic, and traditional association to the Ōreti River, as set out below.

Ngāi Tahu association with the Ōreti River

The Ōreti River traverses a significant area of Murihiku, stretching from its mouth at Invercargill almost to the edge of Whakatipu-wai-māori (Lake Wakatipu). As such, it formed one of the main trails inland from the coast, with an important pounamu trade route continuing northward from the headwaters of the Ōreti and travelling, via the Mavora or Von River Valley, to the edge of Wakatipu and onto the Dart and Routeburn pounamu sources. Indeed, pounamu can be found in the upper reaches of the Ōreti itself.

The tūpuna had considerable knowledge of whakapapa, traditional trails and tauranga waka, places for gathering kai and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of the Ōreti, the relationship of people with the river and their dependence on it, and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilisation of resources. All of these values remain important to Ngāi Tahu today.

The kai resources of the Ōreti would have supported numerous parties venturing into the interior, and returning by mōkihi (vessels made of raupō), laden with pounamu and mahinga kai. Nohoanga (temporary campsites) supported such travel by providing bases from which the travellers could go water fowling, eeling and catching inaka (whitebait), and were located along the course of Ōreti River.

There were a number of important settlement sites at the mouth of the Ōreti, in the New River estuary, including Ōmāui, which was located at the mouth of the Ōreti, where it passes the New River Heads. Ōue, at the mouth of the Ōreti River (New River estuary), opposite Ōmāui, was one of the principal settlements in Murihiku. Honekai who was a principal chief of Murihiku in his time was resident at this settlement in the early 1820s, at the time of the sealers. In 1850 there were said to still be 40 people living at the kaik at Ōmāui under the chief Mauhe.

As a result of this pattern of occupation, there are a number of urupā located at the lower end of the Ōreti, in the estuarine area. Urupā are the resting places of Ngāi Tahu tūpuna and, as such, are the focus for whānau traditions. These are places holding the memories, traditions, victories and defeats of Ngāi Tahu tūpuna, and are frequently protected by secret locations.

The mauri of the Ōreti represents the essence that binds the physical and spiritual elements of all things together, generating and upholding all life. All elements of the natural environment possess a life force, and all forms of life are related. Mauri is a critical element of the spiritual relationship of Ngāi Tahu Whānui with the river.

Purposes of statutory acknowledgement

Pursuant to [section 215](#), and without limiting the rest of this schedule, the only purposes of this statutory acknowledgement are —

- (a) to require that consent authorities forward summaries of resource consent applications to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as required by regulations made pursuant to [section 207](#) (clause 12.2.3 of the deed of settlement); and
- (b) to require that consent authorities, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, or the Environment Court, as the case may be, have regard to this statutory acknowledgement in relation to the Ōreti River, as provided in [sections 208 to 210](#) (clause 12.2.4 of the deed of settlement); and
- (c) to empower the Minister responsible for management of the Ōreti River or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as the case may be, to enter into a Deed of Recognition as provided in [section 212](#) (clause 12.2.6 of the deed of settlement); and
- (d) to enable Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and any member of Ngāi Tahu Whānui to cite this statutory acknowledgement as evidence of the association of Ngāi Tahu to the Ōreti River as provided in [section 211](#) (clause 12.2.5 of the deed of settlement).

Limitations on effect of statutory acknowledgement

Except as expressly provided in [sections 208 to 211, 213, and 215](#),—

- (a) this statutory acknowledgement does not affect, and is not to be taken into account in, the exercise of any power, duty, or function by any person or entity under any statute, regulation, or bylaw; and
- (b) without limiting paragraph (a), no person or entity, in considering any matter or making any decision or recommendation under any statute, regulation, or bylaw, may give any greater or lesser weight to Ngāi Tahu's association to the Ōreti River (as described in this statutory acknowledgement) than that person or entity would give under the relevant statute, regulation, or bylaw, if this statutory acknowledgement did not exist in respect of the Ōreti River.

Except as expressly provided in this Act, this statutory acknowledgement does not affect the lawful rights or interests of any person who is not a party to the deed of settlement.

Except as expressly provided in this Act, this statutory acknowledgement does not, of itself, have the effect of granting, creating, or providing evidence of any estate or interest in, or any rights of any kind whatsoever relating to, the Ōreti River.

Schedule 50: amended, on 20 May 2014, by [section 107](#) of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (2014 No 26).

The entire Settlement Act can be found at this link: [Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 | New Zealand Legislation](#)

Attachment 6: Comments received from Kā Rūnaka – Hokonui Rūnanga, Waihōpai Rūnaka, Te Rūnaka o Awarua, and Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka

20 July 2026

Fast Track
Private Bag 63002
WELLINGTON 6140

Tēnā koe

Hokonui Wind Farm - Fast Track Consenting

This letter is provided on behalf of Hokonui Rūnanga, Waihōpai Rūnaka, Te Rūnaka o Awarua, Oraka Aparima Rūnaka (**Ka Rūnaka**). Ka Rūnaka are recognised as members, and Papatipu Rūnanga, of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu under the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 and are a subset of 18 Papatipu Runanga who together form Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Ngāi Tahu is the principal Māori Iwi of New Zealand's South Island with a Rohe encompassing about 80% of the South Island and significant commercial investments across multiple industries, including fisheries, forestry, tourism, property and logistics. Ka Rūnaka take our role as kaitiaki of the moana and whenua in our takiwā seriously and want to play a leading role to advance the interests of our whānau and the communities that we are part of and live within. You may be familiar with the whakatauki - '*Mō kā uri, ā muri ake nei*' (For us, and our children after us). This whakatauki captures our thinking and intergenerational approach.

Ka Rūnaka support development in our takiwā because it creates opportunities for our whānau and our communities. We also hold an inherent responsibility to ensure the whenua and moana are treated with respect and care. Balancing different priorities can be hard, but in our experience where parties engage with Ka Rūnaka early and in a meaningful way issues and barriers are usually able to be resolved.

Kā Rūnaka understand that Hokonui Hills Wind Farm LP is intending to seek consent(s) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm, for the purposes of section 11 of the Fast-track Act, that Hokonui Hills Wind Farm LP has begun consultation with Kā Rūnaka. As mana whenua, Ka Rūnaka are likely to be impacted by this project, and this is an opportunity to commence meaningful engagement with Te Ao Mārama Incorporated (**TAMI**) on behalf of Ka Rūnaka. We are aware that engaging with four Rūnaka can be sometimes a challenge, so we are working together to provide a point of contact via TAMI to make that process easier for external parties.

We have provided a process agreement to provide more information about the process to engage with Rūnaka / TAMI.

For the avoidance of doubt, Kā Rūnaka have not provided any affected party approval for the purposes of either sections 95A or 95B of the Resource Management Act 1991 or any equivalent under the Fast-track Act.

Kā Rūnaka expect to be invited to provide comments on the application under section 17 of the Fast-track Act. Further, in relation to the report on Treaty settlements and other obligations required under section 18 of the Fast-track Act Kā Rūnaka expect that the responsible agency will work with Kā Rūnaka (and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as is consistent with its statutory role) in preparing the report.

In the meantime, should you wish to speak with us please contact Dean Whaanga at TAMU s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(a) .

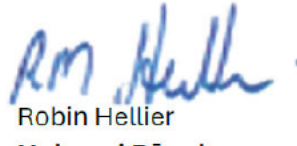
Nāku noa, nā



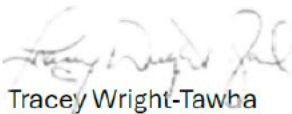
Pania Coote
Awarua Rūnaka



Cyril Gilroy
Waihopai Rūnaka



Robin Hellier
Hokonui Rūnaka



Tracey Wright-Tawha
Oraka-Aparima Rūnaka