

22.4.4 The Incorporation thanks the Expert Panel for the opportunity to provide this commentary and respectfully commends these observations for its careful consideration.

22.4.5 The Incorporation further notes that the constitutional principles and integrated framework referred to throughout this commentary are supported within the amalgamated constitutional framework constituted as Ngāpuhi Incorporation, reflecting the collective participation of several Māori Incorporations in matters affecting whenua, taonga and the continuing responsibilities exercised under tikanga, Māori customs and usages.

22.5 Minute 5 – Further Engagement with Mana Whenua, Iwi and Hapū

22.5.1 The Incorporation acknowledges Minute 5 of the Expert Panel dated 04 August 2026, particularly the Expert Panel's recognition of tikanga in relation to the site visit, its acknowledgement that the compressed Fast-track timeframes may have limited engagement with all mana whenua interests, and its intention to provide further opportunities for mana whenua, iwi and hapū entities to present their comments directly to the Expert Panel.

22.5.2 The Incorporation welcomes the Expert Panel's intention to receive further comments from mana whenua, iwi and hapū. The Incorporation respectfully maintains its objection to the proposed Project and continues to consider that maintaining and improving the existing transport corridor represents the preferable outcome.

Should the Expert Panel nevertheless seek clarification of the matters raised in this commentary, the Incorporation remains willing to provide further written comments if requested by the Expert Panel.