

Appendix Z2 Mana whenua consultation

29 July 2026

Environmental Protection Authority
Private Bag 63002
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Tēnā koe

LETTER OF SUPPORT: AUCKLAND REGIONAL LANDFILL (WAYBY VALLEY) FAST-TRACK REFERRAL APPLICATION

1. This letter sets out the support of Ngāti Manuhiri (“**Ngāti Manuhiri**”) for the application by WM New Zealand Limited (“**Waste Management**”) to have the proposed Auckland Regional Landfill at Wayby Valley (“**the Project**”) referred into, and approved under, the fast-track approvals process. We ask that the Panel and the Minister take this letter into account when considering the referral application.

Ngāti Manuhiri as mana whenua

2. Ngāti Manuhiri is mana whenua of the rohe within which the Project site at Wayby Valley is located. Our status as mana whenua of the Project area has been confirmed through the Treaty settlement process and has since been tested and upheld through the courts.
3. The Environment Court and the High Court have each considered the question of mana whenua status over the Project site as part of the litigation concerning the Project's resource consents. In its decision in *Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua v Auckland Council* [2024] NZHC 3794, the High Court upheld the Environment Court's factual findings regarding mana whenua, including that Ngāti Manuhiri holds a closer and more direct relationship with the Project site than other iwi. We consider this judicial recognition to be significant, both for the integrity of the consenting process and for the standing of our people as kaitiaki of this whenua.

Support of other mana whenua

4. We further note that all other iwi and hapū groups with an interest in the Project area have withdrawn their opposition to the Project and now support Ngāti Manuhiri's position. This shared position reflects a considered, collective view among mana whenua that engagement with Waste Management as project partners offers a better outcomes for our people, and for the whenua, than the continued litigation that seems to be inevitable in the normal resource consenting process.

Partnership with Waste Management

5. Ngāti Manuhiri is a project partner to Waste Management in respect of the Project. Our partnership includes arrangements for ongoing tangata whenua oversight and monitoring of the Project's cultural and environmental performance.
6. It allows Ngāti Manuhiri to exercise kaitiakitanga over the Project site on an ongoing basis, and to secure tangible and lasting benefits for our people from a development that will proceed on our whenua. We consider active partnership, rather than continued opposition, to be the approach most likely to protect our cultural interests and secure good outcomes for future generations.

Cultural and environmental outcomes

7. The Environment Court's decisions on the Project's resource consents recorded that the Project's effects on cultural values and on the freshwater and ecological values of the site can be appropriately managed and mitigated through the extensive suite of consent conditions imposed, including conditions directed at tangata whenua monitoring and cultural oversight.
8. We consider that the mitigation, monitoring and partnership arrangements now in place, together with the fast-track process's ability to impose robust conditions, will deliver intergenerational cultural and environmental benefits for the rohe that will facilitate the revitalization of our culture and identity.

Our support for referral

9. Ngāti Manuhiri supports the Project being referred into the fast-track approvals process. Auckland needs long-term, reliable waste infrastructure, and we consider the fast-track process — with Ngāti Manuhiri as an active partner and with robust conditions carried through from the existing consent record — is capable of delivering the certainty required, without compromising the protection of matters important to tangata whenua.
10. We respectfully ask that the Minister refer the Project for fast-track approval, and that the Panel take this letter, and the extensive record already before the Environment Court and High Court on mana whenua and cultural effects, into account in its assessment.

Nāku noa, nā



Mook Hohneck

Chairman: Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust