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**MINUTE 13 OF THE EXPERT PANEL**

Unsolicited and late comments received

Central and Southern Block Mining Project [FTAA-2512-1153]

(2 June 2026)

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- [1] This Minute addresses unsolicited and late comments received.
- [2] On 21 April 2026 the Panel issued Minute 3, inviting comments on the application under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). The persons invited were recorded in Appendices 1 and 2 of Minute 3.
- [3] A large number of comments were received from persons invited to comment within the specified timeframe (11:59pm 20 May 2026).

**UNSOLICITED COMMENTS**

- [4] The EPA received unsolicited comments under section 53 of the Act from the following persons:
- a. Natasha Willison-Reardon, named applicant for the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 application CIV-2017-419-082-P (rohe moana to Tirua Point), and named applicant for the Marokopa Mātaitai Reserve (Fisheries Notice 2010 No. F567), filed a submission in co-submission with Te Aroa Pou, Co-Chair of Mirumiru Pā ki Marokopa
  - b. Joanne Katipa, Ngaa Hapuu o Te Uru o Tainui Customary Fisheries Forum
- [5] Both comments were received within the specified timeframe.
- [6] Following clarification sought from Ms Willison-Reardon, it was confirmed that the fisheries notices listed in paragraph 4a. above are relevant to the areas for which the named parties making comments are tangata whenua pursuant to section 53(2)(g) of the Act and are listed in the Panels invitation to comment. The Panel therefore accepts this comment.
- [7] Regarding the comment from Ngaa Hapuu o Te Uru o Tainui Customary Fisheries Forum, the Panel notes the comments explain the role and experience of the Forum in managing fisheries issues and representing kaitiaki from coastal hapuu and marae along the west coast. However, that does not qualify the

Forum to comment under the Act. The Panel therefore declines to accept this comment.

The Panel nevertheless noted the comments support the collective position of Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaauru as mana whenua of Te Taharoa of Ruapuutahanga who have made comments on the application.

#### **LATE COMMENTS**

- [8] As indicated in Minute 11, On 25 May 2026, the Department of Conservation (DOC) filed a late comment on the Application.
- [9] Under s 81(6) of the Act, the Panel may (but is not required to) consider comments filed after the applicable timeframe, at its discretion.
- [10] This minute records that the Panel has decided to accept the additional late comment from DOC due to the attendance of a staff member important to the response at a tangi.



Dave Serjeant  
**Central and Southern Block Mining Project Expert Panel Chair**