

1 October 2026

By Email: substantive@fasttrack.govt

Expert Panel
Central and Southern Blocks Mining Project
Private Bag 63002
Wellington 6140

Teena koutou

Fast-Track Approvals Act – Central and Southern Block Mining Project – RFI 12

1. The Proprietors of Taharoa C Block (**Taharoa C**) are the landowners of Taharoa C Block, located at Taharoa Road, Taharoa (Title reference: SA34B/688) (**Land**). This Land is Maaori freehold land and is the location of the Taharoa Ironsand Mine, which is operated by Taharoa Ironsands Limited (**TIL**) under a lease agreement with Taharoa C.
2. The Panel has requested that representatives of Taharoa C Block, Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaauru, Te Kooraha Marae and Aaruka Marae consult on the method for nominating an agreed list of kaumaatua to fulfil responsibilities pursuant to the Archaeological Authority and Archaeological Management Plan.
3. Taharoa C has sought the views of Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaauru, Te Kooraha Marae and Aaruka Marae about the method for nominating an agreed list of kaumaatua. Taharoa C is committed to reaching an agreement in principle among the parties to the method of nomination that includes Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaauru, Te Kooraha Marae and Aaruka Marae and for the parties to meet further and attempt to reach agreement on the matter in accordance with tikanga.
4. Taharoa C will take the following next steps to reach an agreed list of kaumaatua:
 - (a) Hold a hui with representatives of Ngaati Mahuta ki te Hauaauru, Te Kooraha Marae and Aaruka Marae within the next week to discuss and establish a Roopuu (group) of nominated persons to undertake the activities of the nominated Kaumaatua set out in the Archaeological Authority and Archaeological Management Plan.
 - (b) At the initial hui, the parties will confirm the purpose and scope of the Roopuu; identify the appropriate representatives and/or nominees; consider the membership criteria; confirm the proposed membership; confirm the responsibilities of members; and identify any matters requiring further consideration through the appropriate tikanga-led process.
 - (c) The intention is to establish the Roopuu by agreement and consensus, with any nominations or representation to be determined by a tikanga-led process involving all parties.
 - (d) Once agreement has been reached, the membership of the Roopuu will be confirmed in writing (for example through hui minutes, a written resolution, a letter or email confirmation), with each nominated person confirming that they are willing and available before their membership is confirmed, and Taharoa C maintaining the formal record of the agreed membership.

- (e) The Roopuu will then operate within the agreed scope of the Archaeological Authority and Archaeological Management Plan, providing cultural and tikanga-based advice, with vacancies, changes to membership, resolution of issues and periodic review handled through the agreed tikanga-led processes.
- 5. Taharoa C support a tikanga-led process between the parties to determine the method for nominating an agreed list of kaumaatua and do not consider that the process ought to be reflected in detail for the purposes of any conditions of consent.

Naaku noa, naa



Charity Edwards
Chair on behalf of the Committee of Management
of the Proprietors of Taharoa C Block Incorporated