

# Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation  
Minister for Māori Crown Relations  
Minister for Māori Development  
Minister for Whānau Ora  
Associate Minister of Housing



15 May 2026

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe,

## Invitation to comment on the Central and Southern Block Mining Project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Thank you for the invitation to comment on this project under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

**I support the application** subject to the Expert Panel:

- a. having due regard for any comments that have been, or will be, received from the relevant Māori groups identified in both the section 18 report developed by the Ministry for the Environment and the Expert Panel's Minute.
- b. having due regard for the Treaty settlement provisions, Conservation Relationship Agreement, Joint Management Agreement, and other statutory associations outlined in the section 18 report.

**I also encourage** the Expert Panel to:

- a. have due regard for the complexities noted by Māori groups to date, and the decision timeframe suggested by Te Nehenehenui

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tama Potaka'.

**Hon Tama Potaka**

Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori me te Minita mō te Arawhiti  
Minister for Māori Development and Minister for Māori Crown Relations