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File No: 60 40 32A
Document No: 33989459
Enquiries To: Sheryl Roa



1st December 2025

Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

Taharoa Ironsands Limited
Attn: Wayne Coffey
Managing Director and CEO of Taharoa Ironsands Limited
[REDACTED]

waikatoregion.govt.nz
0800 800 401

Dear Wayne

RE: Taharoa Ironsands Limited – Notification of Fast-track approvals application for the purposes of section 30 of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

This reply is in response to your letter dated 28th November 2025 notifying the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) that Taharoa Ironsands Limited will be applying for all necessary approvals under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) for the continuation of mining and associated activities across the Central and Southern Blocks of the Mine and in the adjacent coastal marine area (known as the Port of Taharoa).

Your letter has requested WRC confirms that in accordance with section 30(3) of the FTAA, there are no existing consents to which sections 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the Resource Management Act 1991 ("the RMA") would apply if the Project were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA.

WRC has granted Taharoa Ironsands Limited consents for a number of the activities identified within the application which are currently the subject to an appeal process. A number of these activities are replacing existing consents and are therefore not subject to s30(3) of the FTAA however, there are new activities sought within the fast track application as follows:

- a) Water Permit to divert groundwater in association with ironsand mining operations and to take and use water from within a dredge pond as a result of extraction of sand in mining operations;
- b) Discharge Permit to discharge mining process water into water within a dredge pond and water management ponds, and discharge water containing contaminants from a mining dredge into water within a dredge pond;
- c) To destroy and/or disturb natural inland wetlands, and dewater natural inland wetlands by undertaking mining within 100m of a natural inland wetland; and
- d) Land Use Consent to undertake earthworks, discharge of sediment, and forestry harvesting in a red zone of Land Use Capability Class 8e land as per regulation 71 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2017

Based on the application documents on the EPA's website reviewed by WRC staff, we can advise that as of the date of this letter, there are no existing consents to which section 124C(1)(c) of the RMA would apply if these activities were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA.

As the proposed project includes an application for a coastal permit to occupy space in the common marine and coastal area (being the Port of Taharoa) an assessment of s165ZI of the RMA is also required. Following a review of the database, WRC can confirm there are no aquaculture activities for which a consent is held, nor is there an application for an aquaculture activity located within the area of the proposed/existing activities within the Coastal Marine Area therefore, in staff's opinion s165ZI of the RMA does not apply.

Should you require any further information with regard to the above, please contact Sheryl Roa – Principal Consents Advisor via email at [REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

AnaMaria d'Aubert
Manager – Regional Consents
Resource Use

From: Alex Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 December 2025 1:55 pm
To: Grant Eccles [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Section 30 notification - FTAA - Taharoa Ironsands Ltd

Hi Grant,

We note that section 30(3)(b) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 requires us to advise whether or not there are any existing resource consents for the southern and central blocks. There have been no land use consents issued for the central and southern blocks by the Waitomo District Council or the prior Waitomo County Council that we have on record. The mine has been in operation since 1972, and we are aware that the activities within the southern and central blocks have to our knowledge been operating under an existing use right pursuant to previously issued Council ordinances etc.

When we received the previous application that was lodged with the Environmental Protection Agency on 5 November 2025, we noted that the application was relying on an existing use right under section 10 of the Resource Management Act 1991 for the land use components of the application. As part of our feedback on the completeness of the application, we requested the following:

1. A clear statement of the activity or activities for which existing use rights are claimed, including all components of the operation (e.g., extraction areas, processing, stockpiling, vehicle movements, ancillary works).
2. Evidence that each component of the activity was lawfully established, including:
 - the operative plan provisions at the time the activity commenced;
 - any resource consents or permits issued; and
 - aerial imagery or other evidence confirming the extent and location of the historic activity.
3. A detailed description of the relevant baseline effects as they existed immediately prior to the plan change, including (where relevant) noise, dust, traffic volumes, earthworks extent, discharge characteristics, operating hours, and the spatial footprint of the activity.
4. A robust comparison of effects demonstrating how the current or proposed activity:
 - remains the same or similar in character, intensity, and scale to the lawfully established baseline; or
 - differs, with justification as to why such differences remain within the scope of section 10.
5. A plan-based analysis confirming whether any parts of the proposal extend beyond the previously established footprint or introduce new effects that fall outside what section 10 can legitimately authorise.

We would appreciate if this point could be addressed ahead of re-lodgement of your application.

Happy to discuss.

Kind regards,

Alex Bell | General Manager - Strategy & Environment
Waitomo District Council | Kaunihera ā-rohe
15 Queen Street, Te Kuiti 3910
PO Box 404, Te Kuiti 3941
Phone 07 878 0800 | Mobile: [REDACTED] DDI: [REDACTED]
www.waitomo.govt.nz | [Follow us on Facebook](#)

Te hanga tahi o tātou Takiwa
Shaping our District together

From: Grant Eccles [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 November 2025 12:12 pm
To: Alex Bel [REDACTED]
Subject: Section 30 notification - FTAA - Taharoa Ironsands Ltd
Importance: High

Hi Alex

As you know, I am assisting Taharoa Ironsands Limited (**TIL**) with its Fast-track application for the Central and Southern Blocks Mining Project.

By way of update, TIL was notified on Wednesday afternoon that its Fast-track application for the Central and Southern Block Mining Project has been returned. This was essentially because the EPA considered that section 30(1)(b) of the Fast-Track Approvals Act (**FTAA**) applied, and TIL had not complied with the balance of section 30. The application was otherwise assessed as complete.

As you will be aware, under section 30(3) of the FTAA, a consent authority, on receiving notice from an authorised person, must advise the authorised person whether there are any existing resource consents to which section 124(1)(c) of the RMA applies.

TIL did not give notice to WRC as part of its consultation process because it did not consider that section 30 applied to the application. The EPA has taken a different view.

Although TIL is not seeking any district consents as part of its Fast-track application, Waitomo District Council has jurisdiction over the application area, so out of an abundance of caution we have **attach** formal notification from TIL requesting that Waitomo District Council provide written notice under section 30(3). We anticipate that Council will be able to provide the written notice under section 30(3)(b).

We would appreciate if you could please provide this notice promptly so that TIL can re-lodge its application as soon as possible.

If you have any queries, please let me know.

Kind regards