

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5FQC-4

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications  
Submitted on 2024-05-03 15:59:47

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2B

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:  
Te Huata Charitable Trust

2 Contact person

Contact person name:  
Dr Haydn Read

3 What is your job title

Job title:  
Te Hēteri

4 What is your contact email address?

Email:  
s 9(2)(a)

5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:  
s 9(2)(a)

6 What is your postal address?

Postal address:  
  
Te Runanga O Te Whanau, State Highway 35, RD 3 Te Kaha

7 Is your address for service different from your postal address?

No

Organisation:

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Job title:

Please enter your service address:

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

Maungaroa No.1 Section 2B1 Block  
7423 State Highway 35, Te Kaha

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Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

Yes

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Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Registered Owners

Aimee Huia Walker, Dawson Peta, Iwiroa Damon Wairua, Jenny Swinton, Rupert Donovan Wiremu Wairua-Harpur, Walter Swanson and Wiremu Te Hue Wharepapa as responsible trustees, jointly, no survivorship

Detail the nature of the applicant's legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur

Please write your answer here:

Te Huata Charitable Trust (applicant) has a lease agreement with Haurua Ahuwhenua Trust (Land Owner).

## Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Te Huata Mussel Spat Hatchery

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

To develop a mussel spat hatchery to commercially support the NZ Greenshell Mussel Industry with mussel spat.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

This venture for Te Whānau ā Apanui brings together Māori, a deep connection to Tangaroa, leading marine science and technology, and industry to develop the first land-based Greenshell Mussel spat hatchery and land based nursery and research facility in the North Island (the "Project").

Iwi leaders within Te Whānau-ā-Apanui see this opportunity as a vehicle out of poverty and a pathway to self-determination. It focuses on delivering social outcomes as much as it does the economic imperatives that enable them. This will be an operation of size and scale that will provide transformational and enduring benefits for the region. It will also be the catalyst investment that will springboard Te Whānau-ā-Apanui's aspirations into the aquaculture sector.

The development of the hatchery and supporting infrastructure, in particular the seawater take and return are crucial to the operation of the hatchery.

Describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging

Please write your answer here:

Site establishment and earthworks - September 2024 - March 2025

Land & sea based site infrastructure development - October 2024 - October 2025

Construction of spat hatchery and land based nursery and research facility - March 2025 - December 2025

Fitout and commissioning of spat hatchery and land based nursery and research facility - October 2025 - June 2026

What are the details of the regime under which approval is being sought?

Please write your answer here:

Resource Management Act 1991

resource consent

notice of requirement

certificate of compliance

coastal permit that authorises aquaculture activities to be undertaken in the coastal marine area and requires decisions under Part 9A of the Fisheries Act 1996

If you seeking approval under the Resource Management Act, who are the relevant local authorities?

Please write your answer here:

Opotiki District Council  
Bay of Plenty Regional Council

What applications have you already made for approvals on the same or a similar project?

Please write your answer here:

Earthworks Consent  
Seawater take and return infrastructure

Is approval required for the project by someone other than the applicant?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Iwi lead project

If the approval(s) are granted, when do you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed?

Please write your answer here:

Detailed Design - In progress - March 2025  
Procurement - In progress - June 2026  
Funding - In progress - December 2024  
Site Works Commencement - September 2024  
Completion - December 2025  
Commissioning - January - June 2026

### Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

The following parties have been identified as having applications for Customary Marine Title or Protected Customary Rights affecting the location of the proposed pipeline and associated structures and activities.

- Whanau a Apanui Hapu (Christina Davis)
- Te Whanau a Apanui (The Trustees of Te Runanga o Te Whanau on behalf of Te Whanau a Apanui)
- Te Whanau a Apanui Hapu (Larry Delamere on behalf of Te Whanau a Apanui Hapu)
- Ngai Tamahaua Hapu (Herewini)

Other Parties

All adjacent property owners and occupiers;  
Waka Kotahi the New Zealand Transport Agency;  
Adjacent Marae  
Heritage NZ – Heritage Authority  
Coastguard  
Local fishing clubs  
Commercial fishing companies

Detail all consultation undertaken with the persons referred to above. Include a statement explaining how engagement has informed the project.

Please write your answer here:

Te Whanau a Apanui (The Trustees of Te Runanga o Te Whanau on behalf of Te Whanau a Apanui), are board members for Te Huata and have been engaging with other Iwi and Hapu groups on the project.

Other parties (adjacent property owners and occupiers, Adjacent Marae); have had an initial consultation process, explaining the nature and scope of the project. A Landscape and visual effects architect has also been engaged to provide a sense of the development.

Marine users have been made aware of the project and more specific details are to be provided on the project in the marine space as part of the consent application for the marine based infrastructure.

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Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land or any part of the land on which the project will occur:

Please write your answer here:

None

#### Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project?

Please write your answer here:

Te Whanau a Apanui (The Trustees of Te Runanga o Te Whanau on behalf of Te Whanau a Apanui)

Are there any Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 principles or provisions that are relevant to the project?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Are there any identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu?

Yes

If yes, what are they?:

Maungaroa No.1 Section 2B1 Block

Is the project proposed on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land described in the ineligibility criteria?

No

Has the applicant has secured the relevant landowners' consent?

No

Is the project proposed in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or identified within an individual iwi settlement?

Yes

If yes, what are they?:

The following parties have been identified as having applications for Customary Marine Title or Protected Customary Rights affecting the location of the proposed pipeline and associated structures and activities.

- Whanau a Apanui Hapu (Christina Davis)
- Te Whanau a Apanui (The Trustees of Te Runanga o Te Whanau on behalf of Te Whanau a Apanui)
- Te Whanau a Apanui Hapu (Larry Delamere on behalf of Te Whanau a Apanui Hapu)
- Ngai Tamahaua Hapu (Herewini)

Has there been an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right?

Yes

If yes, please explain:

It is recognised that there is the potential for cumulative effects associated with a proliferation of structures in the coastal environment. In this case, the project site is located within a section of coastline which is relatively unmodified by coastal structures.

The proposed structures will be visually discrete, with the only permanent above ground structure being the pump house building and pipeline from this building to the hatchery facility. The section of pipeline crossing the beach and backshore area will be buried to avoid visual effects.

The size and location of structures proposed within the coastal marine area is limited to what is necessary to meet the technical requirements of the hatchery facility. Given the characteristics of the site and surrounding area, including its relative isolation, it is unlikely that there will be future proposals for additional coastal structures or activities within the coastal marine area in this location which would give rise to concerns about cumulative effects.

Upload your assessment if necessary:

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#### Section 5: Adverse effects

What are the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment?

Please describe:

Relevant actual and potential environmental effects include:

- Cultural values
- Natural character and landscape effects
- Ecological effects
- Recreation values
- Cumulative effects
- Natural hazards
- Navigational effects
- Construction effects
- Biosecurity

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## Section 6: National policy statements and national environmental standards

What is the general assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard?

Please write your answer here:

In summary, the proposed development requires resource consent under the RCEP and RNRP as a discretionary activity. The proposal will sustain the natural and physical resources of the coastal marine area to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations (section 5(2)(a)). The proposed design of the structures and the construction methodology has been carefully considered to safeguard the life-supporting capacity of water and aquatic ecosystems (section 5(2)(b)) and ensure that potential adverse effects will be avoided, remedied or mitigated (section 5(2)(c)).

Overall, the proposed development is deemed suitable for its location within the Coastal Environment Zone, as it falls outside the area susceptible to coastal inundation and erosion hazards, and it is not expected to exacerbate the effects of coastal hazards.

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## Section 7: Eligibility

Will access to the fast-track process enable the project to be processed in a more timely and cost-efficient way than under normal processes?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Yes, as the consenting activity is set in a complex marine environment which requires due consideration by technical experts.

What is the impact referring this project will have on the efficient operation of the fast-track process?

Please write your answer here:

It will allow for a holistic approach to the consenting to the project, and will look to address all effects as a whole and not limited to the specific activities of the sea water take and return infrastructure.

Has the project been identified as a priority project in a:

Sector plan or strategy

Please explain your answer here:

Fisheries New Zealand and the Aquaculture NZ Strategy, which identifies the need for additional Mussel Spat Hatcheries to stabilise and support the industry.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

National significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The industry body, Aquaculture New Zealand, has three strategic goals to becoming a \$1b mussel industry:

- Securing and diversifying spat supplies
- Optimising spat use
- Increasing hatchery production

The proposed capacity of the hatchery aligns with growth once fully operational, the hatchery will provide high quality spat to meet present and growing demand with an estimated peak capacity of 5.5m spat metres p.a. representing c. 38% of current demand and c. 27% of forecast future demand.

Will the project:

contribute to a well-functioning urban environment

Please explain your answer here:

Employment is a simple pathway for solving poverty at an individual level, as the academic literature shows. Within the rohe of Te Whānau- ā-Apanui, some of the issues are particularly acute. The unemployment rate stood at 20.4% in 2018. In 2018 the median personal income within the traditional iwi territory was \$16,500, some 42% lower than the national median. One in four of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui youth aged 18–24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET) during this same period. The proportion of Apanui obtaining secondary and tertiary qualifications is still well below the national average. The reasons for this disparity lie in the lack of equality of opportunity, not the lack of ambition or ability. 12.9% of the population of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui hold bachelor degree or post graduate qualifications. The national average is 26%. By providing meaningful employment this will contribute to a well-functioning urban environment and generate a need for housing to support skilled employed workers.

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The implications of the investment involved in this proposal are profound. They are less about the infrastructure investment supporting it, than they are about the social outcomes and the opportunities in education, employment, health and welfare it will provide.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Demand for mussel spat is driven by availability of consented waterspace and the development of “on-water” infrastructure. At present, 6,200ha of consented waterspace for aquaculture is developed. Aquaculture NZ identified an additional 10,800ha will need to be developed to achieve their 2035 objectives. Tikapa Moana and Te Toi Moana has most potential for development with over 16,000ha identified for future mussel farms. 4,065ha of this is already consented and not yet developed.

Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum?

No

Please explain your answer here:

N/A

Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions?

No

Please explain your answer here:

N/A

Will the project support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Mussel Spat Hatchery is supported by a research programme being undertaken at Cawthron Aquaculture Park by Te Huata Researchers, included in this is a breeding program that focuses on species longevity.

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

This research project will aim to improve the mussel resilience to external factors such as temperature, with the goal of increasing the longevity of the species. Global warming and ocean acidification are worldwide occurrences that will deeply impact future food production. This research stream aligns closely with a multi-generational view of iwi

Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The project contributes to the goal of the Bay of Plenty Regional Aquaculture Strategy to grow an integrated and sustainable aquaculture industry with export sales of \$250 million<sup>1</sup>. The project also supports the objectives of the New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy, specifically by enabling Māori-led aquaculture development. The hatchery is a pivotal part of the To Maona a Toi Aquaculture development strategy, and the capacity for there marine farms in the area to flourish.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

To avoid confusion, if this project is included on the list to go forward as an FTC project then any other consent applications would be withdrawn.

Does the project includes an activity which would make it ineligible?

No

If yes, please explain:

## Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

Will the project be affected by climate change and natural hazards?

Yes

If yes, please explain:

Climate change influencing the rising of sea water temperatures will affect the way in which the mussel spat hatchery operates and the success of the spat survival in the natural. This is being mitigated by breeding for mussels that have thermal resilience and hence a greater survivability in increased water temperatures.

## Section 9: Track record

Please add a summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by any entity with enforcement powers under the Acts referred to in the Bill, and the outcome of those actions.

Please write your answer here:

None

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## Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on environment.govt.nz if required

Yes

By typing your name in the field below you are electronically signing this application form and certifying the information given in this application is true and correct.

Please write your name here:

Rikirangi Gage

Important notes