

MPI advice on Fast-track Listed Project Application

Application name	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Polyculture Aquafarms
Application number	FTA302
Applicant	Amelia Dalley - Senior Strategy Advisor, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
Whether aquaculture decision will be required under Schedule 12 of the FTA Bill	This is an application for marine farms within the Territorial Sea so will require an aquaculture decision under Schedule 12 of the FTA Bill.
Other authorisations that may be required from MPI	n/a
Aquaculture settlement considerations	<p>In the application, the applicant states the proposal does not overlap with the aquaculture settlement area in the region, however, the map accompanying the application does not clearly identify where the proposed aquaculture farms would be located. As such, we are not able to determine whether the application is located within an aquaculture settlement area established under section 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004. Regardless, as the applicant is Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, if the application does overlap with the aquaculture settlement area in the region, then the relevant authorisations would be held so the project would not be considered ineligible under clause 18(e) of the Fast-track Approvals Bill.</p> <p>Should this application be consented over an area that has not previously been subject to a resource consent for aquaculture, it could generate a settlement obligation in the Southland region (under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act) that is representative of 20% of the newly consented space.</p>
Fisheries settlement considerations	<p>The Fisheries Settlement has been concluded. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu hold all commercial fishing assets on behalf of the iwi members. Customary fishing is managed by the Awarua Rūnanga under the provisions of the Fisheries (South Island Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999 which were made to give effect to Fisheries Settlement agreements. Customary fishing and management of important customary fishing grounds can only be conducted under these regulations. The Awarua Rūnanga rohe for customary fishing purpose overlays the application sites.</p> <p>An application that affected the ability of the iwi to exercise customary rights would require careful consideration in relation to Treaty obligations. We would recommend consulting Awarua Rūnanga to understand the possible impacts of the application (eg for particular customary fishing locations), even though the Ngāi Tahu Rūnanga is the applicant.</p>

Impacts of a project on Māori development and PSGE priorities	<p>The application is by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu who have strong interests in developing aquaculture in their rohe.</p> <p>MPI makes an overarching comment on the applications for aquaculture activities in the coastal marine area: some of the applications have applied for a large quantum of space (noting some applications do not provide sufficient detail to calculate spatial extent). The total area currently consented for aquaculture activities in New Zealand is approximately 14,000 ha.</p>
Other matters to note	<p>It is not clear whether the application has spatial overlaps with other listed project applications in the region, notably FTA340, FTA224, and FTA201. We recommend that advice is sought from officials in relation to this application should it proceed.</p>

Disclaimer: This advice has been developed to support MfE advice to the independent Fast-track Projects Advisory Group and is not intended to provide comment on the merits or viability of the application.