

MPI advice on Fast-track Listed Project Application

Application name	Central and Southern Block Mining Project
Application number	FTA370
Applicant	Taharoa Iron Sands Limited
Whether the application is ineligible under Clause 18 of the FTA Bill	No
Other authorisations that may be required from MPI	
Aquaculture settlement considerations	N/A
Fisheries settlement considerations	<p>The mining sites themselves do not have implications for the Fisheries Treaty settlement. However, the at sea loading and de-watering of sand may effect fisheries in the area.</p> <p>Fisheries settlements have been concluded with the two main iwi with fisheries interests in the area, Ngāti Maniapoto and Waikāto - Tainui. These iwi have significant quota holdings, some of which will be caught in the loading area.</p> <p>Customary fishing is managed by the hapū of these iwi under the provisions of the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998 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 rohe of some hapū for customary fishing purpose overlays the loading site. 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 Ngāti Maniapoto and Waikato-Tainui hapū to understand the possible impacts of the application (eg for particular customary fishing locations).</p>
Impacts of a project on Māori development and PSGE priorities	<p>Comments from Māori Partnerships and Investment –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - s 9(2)(b)(ii) - MPI has a Primary Industries Protocol with Maniapoto.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a coastal statutory acknowledgement that follows the coastline from Kawhia Harbour south to Taranaki, which includes the coastal area adjacent to Tahaora. - There are statutory acknowledgements over Ngā Wai o Maniapoto, covering waterways that fall within the Taharoa area of operation. - Waikato-Tainui rohe also spans the Taharoa area of operation. There is a relevant Agriculture, Biosecurity and Forestry Accord with Waikato-Tainui. <p>Note – Biosecurity NZ will have interests in the operation of Port Taharoa.</p>
Other matters to note	<p>Comments from Water Availability & Security team –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Block Mining project application (FTA372) indicates that water consented to central and Southern Block mining (FTA370) will be used. However the environmental assessment document did not highlight this. It is not clear if the environmental report assessed the impact of this additional water use on North Block. - The environment report acknowledges the impact on wetlands adjoining Lake Taharoa though the impact is assessed low. It is not clear if the environmental assessment report is based exclusively on expert knowledge, or any data was used. Since the assessment conclusions are qualitative (e.g. low impact), it is not clear as what scale was used to define them. <p>The mine is allowed to discharge settled stormwater and washdown water to the Wainui stream. The environment report also indicates that none holds a permit to draw from the stream.</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.