

**PROTOCOL ISSUED BY THE CROWN THROUGH THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES
REGARDING CONSULTATION WITH NGĀ HAPŪ O TE IWI O WHANGANUI BY THE
MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND EMPLOYMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF CROWN OWNED MINERALS**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Deed of Settlement dated 2 May 2026 between the trustees of the Takapau Whāriki Trust ("**Takapau Whāriki**") and the Crown (the "**Deed of Settlement**"), the Crown agreed that the Minister for Resources (the "**Minister**") would issue a Protocol (the "**Protocol**") setting out how the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the "**Ministry**") will consult with Takapau Whāriki on matters specified in the Protocol.
- 1.2 Both the Ministry and Takapau Whāriki are seeking a constructive relationship based on the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi which underpins the parties as they move forward as partners, connecting with whānau, Hapū, Iwi and whenua within the Protocol Area.
- 1.3 Section 4 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (the "**Act**") requires all persons exercising functions and powers under the Act shall have regard to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi. In accordance with Section 14(1) of the Act, the minerals programme gives effect to Section 4 of the Act.
- 1.4 The Minister and the Ministry recognises Takapau Whāriki representing Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui.
- 1.5 Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui are tāngata whenua and kaitiaki of the Protocol Area and have significant interests and responsibilities in relation to the preservation, protection and management of natural resources within the Protocol Area. The Protocol Area does not include the area covered by Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017, over which Te Pou Tupua exercises functions under the Act on behalf of the hapū and iwi of the Whanganui River. Notwithstanding that, it is acknowledged that Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui are tāngata whenua within that area too.

2 PURPOSE OF THIS PROTOCOL

- 2.1 In relation to minerals administered in accordance with the Act in the Protocol Area, with the intent of upholding the relationship between Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and the Ministry, as underpinned by Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi, this Protocol sets out how the Ministry will exercise its functions, powers, and duties in relation to the matters set out in this Protocol.
- 2.2 Takapau Whāriki will have the opportunity for input into the policy, planning, and decision-making processes relating to the matters set out in this Protocol in accordance with the Act and the relevant minerals programmes issued under the Act.

3 PROTOCOL AREA

- 3.1 This Protocol applies to the area shown on the map in Appendix A and does not go beyond the sovereign territory of New Zealand.

4 TERMS OF ISSUE

- 4.1 This Protocol is issued pursuant to section 26 to 30 of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Act 2026 (the “**Settlement Legislation**”) that implements clauses 8.12 to 8.14.2 of the Deed of Settlement and is subject to the Settlement Legislation and the Deed of Settlement.
- 4.2 This Protocol must be read subject to the terms of issue set out in Attachment B.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Minister will ensure that Takapau Whāriki is consulted by the Ministry:

New minerals programmes

- (a) on the preparation of a draft minerals programme, or a proposed change to a minerals programme (unless the change is one to which section 16(3) of the Act applies), which relate, whether wholly or in part, to the Protocol Area;

Petroleum exploration permit block offers

- (b) on the planning of a competitive tender allocation of a permit block for petroleum exploration (being a specific area with defined boundaries available for allocation as a permit in accordance with section 24 of the Act and the relevant minerals programme), which relates, whether wholly or in part, to the Protocol Area. This will include outlining the proposals for holding the block offer, and consulting with Takapau Whāriki on these proposals over the consultation period set out in the relevant minerals programme;

Other petroleum permit applications

- (c) when any application for a petroleum permit is received, which relates, whether wholly or in part, to the Protocol Area, except where the application relates to a block offer over which consultation has already taken place under clause 5.1(b);

Amendments to petroleum permits

- (d) when any application to amend a petroleum permit, by extending the land to which the permit relates, is received where the application relates, wholly or in part, to the Protocol Area;

Permit block offers for Crown owned minerals other than petroleum

- (e) on the planning of a competitive tender allocation of a permit block for Crown owned minerals other than petroleum (being a specific area with defined boundaries available for allocation as a permit in accordance with section 24 of the Act and any relevant minerals programme) which relates, whether wholly or in part, to the Protocol Area;

Other permit applications for Crown owned minerals other than petroleum

- (f) when any application for a permit in respect of Crown owned minerals other than petroleum is received, which relates, whether wholly or in part, to the Protocol Area, except where the application relates to a block offer over which consultation has already taken place under clause 5.1(e) or where the application relates to newly available acreage;

Newly available acreage

- (g) when the Secretary proposes to recommend that the Minister grant an application for a permit for newly available acreage in respect of minerals other than petroleum, which relates, whether wholly or in part, to the Protocol Area;

Amendments to permits for Crown owned minerals other than petroleum

- (h) when any application to amend a permit in respect of Crown owned minerals other than petroleum, by extending the land or minerals covered by an existing permit is received, where the application relates, wholly or in part, to the Protocol Area; and

Gold fossicking areas

- (i) when any request is received or proposal is made to designate lands as a gold fossicking area, which relates, whether wholly or in part, to the Protocol Area.

- 5.2 Each decision on a proposal referred to in clause 5.1 will be made having regard to any matters raised as a result of consultation with Takapau Whāriki and having regard to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi.

6 IMPLEMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The Crown has an obligation under the Act to consult with parties whose interests may be affected by matters described in clause 5.1. The Ministry will consult with Takapau Whāriki in accordance with this Protocol if matters described in clause 5.1 of this Protocol may affect the interests of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui.
- 6.2 For the purposes of clause 6.1, the basic principles that will be followed by the Ministry in consulting with Takapau Whāriki in each case are:
 - (a) ensuring that Takapau Whāriki is consulted as soon as reasonably practicable following the identification and determination by the Ministry of the proposal or issues;
 - (b) providing Takapau Whāriki with sufficient information to make informed decisions and submissions;
 - (c) ensuring that sufficient time is given for the participation of Takapau Whāriki in the decision-making process and to enable it to prepare its submissions; and
 - (d) ensuring that the Ministry will approach the consultation with Takapau Whāriki with an open mind and will genuinely consider the submissions of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi Whanganui.

7 DEFINITIONS

7.1 In this Protocol:

Act means the Crown Minerals Act 1991 as amended, consolidated or substituted;

Chief Executive means the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment;

Crown means the Sovereign in right of New Zealand and includes, where appropriate, the Ministers and Departments of the Crown that are involved in, or bound by the terms of the Deed of Settlement to participate in, any aspect of the redress under the Deed of Settlement;

Crown owned minerals means any mineral that is the property of the Crown;

Deed of Settlement means the Deed of Settlement dated 2 May 2026 between the Crown and Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui;

mineral means a naturally occurring inorganic substance beneath or at the surface of the earth, whether or not under water; and includes all metallic minerals, non-metallic minerals, fuel minerals, precious stones, industrial rocks and building stones, and a prescribed substance within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1945;

Minister means the Minister for Resources;

Ministry means the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment;

newly available acreage is a method for allocating permits for minerals (excluding petroleum) as set out in the Minerals Programme for Minerals (Excluding Petroleum) 2025

Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui has the meaning set out in clauses 11.7 to 11.10.3 of the Deed of Settlement;

petroleum means—

- (a) any naturally occurring hydrocarbon (other than coal) whether in a gaseous, liquid, or solid state; or
- (b) any naturally occurring mixture of hydrocarbons (other than coal) whether in a gaseous, liquid, or solid state; or
- (c) any naturally occurring mixture of 1 or more hydrocarbons (other than coal) whether in a gaseous, liquid, or solid state, and 1 or more of the following, namely hydrogen sulphide, nitrogen, helium, or carbon dioxide—

and, except in sections 10 and 11, includes any petroleum as so defined which has been mined or otherwise recovered from its natural condition, or which has been so mined or otherwise recovered but which has been returned to a natural reservoir for storage purposes; and

protocol means a statement in writing, issued by the Crown through the Minister to Takapau Whāriki under the Settlement Legislation and the Deed of Settlement and includes this Protocol.

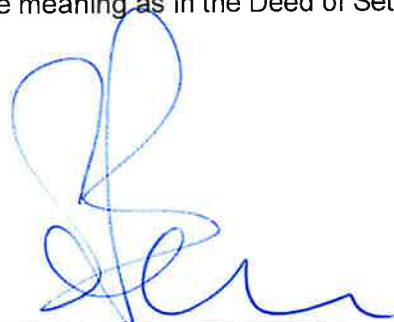
Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi has the same meaning as in the Deed of Settlement.

ISSUED ON 22/9/2026

SIGNED for and on behalf of

THE SOVEREIGN

in right of New Zealand by
the Minister for Resources



Minister for Resources

WITNESS

Name John Doorbe

Occupation Public Servant

Address 23 Penrose St, Lower Hutt

Date 22/9/26

ATTACHMENT A PROTOCOL AREA MAP



ATTACHMENT B: SUMMARY OF THE TERMS OF ISSUE

This Protocol is subject to the Deed of Settlement and the Settlement Legislation. A summary of the relevant provisions is set out below.

1. Amendment and cancellation

- 1.1 The Minister or Takapau Whāriki may cancel this Protocol.
- 1.2 The Protocol can only be amended by agreement in writing between the Minister and Takapau Whāriki, in accordance with Te Tomokanga ki Te Matapihi.

2. Noting

- 2.1 A summary of the terms of this Protocol must be added:
 - 2.1.1 in a register of protocols maintained by the Chief Executive; and
 - 2.1.2 in the minerals programme affecting the Protocol Area when those programmes are changed;but the addition:
 - 2.1.3 is for the purpose of public notice only; and
 - 2.1.4 does not change the minerals programmes for the purposes of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (section 14).

3. Limits

- 3.1 This Protocol does not --
 - 3.1.1 restrict the Crown from exercising its powers, and performing its functions and duties, in accordance with the law (including the Crown Minerals Act 1991) and government policy, including:
 - (a) introducing legislation; or
 - (b) changing government policy; or
 - (c) issuing a Protocol to, or interacting or consulting with anyone the Crown considers appropriate, including any iwi, hapū, marae, whānau, or representative of tāngata whenua (section 28); or
 - 3.1.2 restrict the responsibilities of the Minister or the Ministry under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 or the legal rights of Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui or a representative entity (section 28 of the Settlement Legislation); or
 - 3.1.3 grant, create, or provide evidence of an estate or interest in, or rights relating to Crown minerals (section 30(3) of the Settlement Legislation); or
 - 3.1.4 affect any interests under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 201.
- 3.2 In this summary of the Terms of Issue, “representative entity” has the same meaning as it has in the Deed of Settlement.

4. Breach

- 4.1 Subject to the Crown Proceedings Act 1950, the Takapau Whāriki Trust may enforce this Protocol if the Crown breaches it without good cause, but damages or monetary compensation will not be awarded (section 29(3) of the Settlement Legislation).
- 4.2 A breach of this Protocol is not a breach of the Deed of Settlement (clause 8.19.1).