

Expert Consenting Panel
New Dunedin Hospital – Whakatuputupu
c/- Environmental Protection Authority Te Mana Rauhi Taiao
Private Bag 63002
Waterloo Quay
Wellington 6140

Via email: DunedinHospital.Fasttrack@epa.govt.nz

8 December 2021

Tēnā koutou,

Whakatuputupu Stage 1 Enabling Works – Request for Information

I write on behalf of kā rūnaka, who represent Kāi Tahu whānui as mana whenua in the Otago region, including Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou and Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki. Aukaha is the regional environmental entity of kā rūnaka.

This letter responds on behalf of kā rūnaka to a Request for Information (RFI) received from the EPA dated 6 December 2021 in relation to the Stage 1 enabling works for Whakatuputupu, a referred project under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020. The RFI seeks assurances about cost recovery for mana whenua input being handled outside of consenting conditions.

As stated in earlier comments, kā rūnaka are supportive of the Dunedin Hospital Project and its potential outcomes for Māori and the wider community. The involvement of Aukaha, on behalf of kā rūnaka, in the Whakatuputupu project to date is welcomed and will have added value to all parties to the project.

However, it can be difficult for Kāi Tahu to sustainably and meaningfully engage in these processes. Kā rūnaka are generally not resourced to be able to engage in resource management processes to the fullest extent that they would desire. The tight timeframes of the fast track consenting process add further difficulty, making meaningful engagement with iwi very challenging.

To this end, a condition was sought stipulating the potential for cost recovery on behalf of kā rūnaka for any involvement in the implementation of resource consents including, but not limited to, any processes around archaeological discoveries.

However, as a second preference, I am confident that, based on the good working relationship with the Ministry of Health to date, the recovery of kā rūnaka costs can be achieved in good faith and with regard to any Memorandum of Understanding or other side agreement made between the relevant parties.

Aukaha (1997) Limited

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Nāku noa,

nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Timms-Dean', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Kate Timms-Dean
General Manager, Mana Taiao
Aukaha (1997) Ltd.

Cc: Trudy Heath, Tanya Stevens, Jessica Riddell, **Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu**
Lauren Semple, **Greenwood Roche**

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