

11 October 2016

DMC Chair
Environmental Protection Authority
Private Bag 63002
Waterloo Quay
WELLINGTON 6140

By email: TTRLApplication@epa.govt.nz

Dear Sir

TTR MARINE CONSENTS APPLICATION – NGĀTI RUANUI REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO SUBMISSION PERIOD

1. Trans Tasman Resources Limited (TTR) has been notified that Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui (Ngāti Ruanui) has applied for an extension to the submission period on TTR's marine discharge consent application. You have requested TTR's response which is set out below.
2. Ngāti Ruanui seeks to justify the need for an extension by claiming that the extension is necessary to allow time for Ngāti Ruanui to consider and consult on the cultural impacts of the application, including the TTR cultural impact assessment.
3. TTR notes that it has actively sought to engage with Ngāti Ruanui since September 2014 – including, most importantly, seeking a cultural impact assessment prepared by Ngāti Ruanui which was agreed by Ngāti Ruanui at a meeting on 3 September 2015. Despite this explicit commitment a cultural impact assessment was never provided.
4. TTR has provided Ngāti Ruanui with detailed information about the proposal as it has developed, including a comprehensive stakeholder information package on 23 October 2015. This detailed information on the project was more than sufficient to enable identification of cultural or environmental issues or at the very least provide a basis for constructive discussion with TTR.
5. Given the failure of Ngāti Ruanui to deliver on the agreed preparation of a cultural impact assessment TTR was left with no choice but to commission an expert overview of relevant cultural issues to incorporate in its marine consent application. This work was done by Tahu Potiki, a highly

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experienced and nationally respected expert advisor on Māori cultural issues.

6. Despite the clear past unwillingness of Ngāti Ruanui to engage, TTR would not object to an extension of 20 working days – solely to Ngāti Ruanui – provided that during the extension period, and before lodging any submission, Ngāti Ruanui representatives would also agree to meet with TTR representatives to identify and discuss key cultural or other environmental issues of concern to Ngāti Ruanui.
7. To allow sufficient time for meaningful dialogue this meeting would ideally take place over a two day period in an agreed local venue in Hawera and chaired by a suitably qualified appointee of the Decision Making Committee (DMC).
8. The aim of the meeting would be to seek to constructively and openly mediate key points of difference or concern and to have the Chair report back to the DMC prior to the start of the consent hearing on the outcomes.
9. TTR has put considerable time and resources into its new application and would be most reluctant for the statutory timetables to be extended except for a positive and constructive purpose which has the unqualified support of Ngāti Ruanui. As noted above the extension would solely be for Ngāti Ruanui in recognition of its mana whenua status.
10. Finally, if any extension were to be granted on the basis outlined above it is considered fair and reasonable for there to be no additional Environmental Protection Authority costs charged to TTR arising from or related to granting the extension of time.

Yours faithfully

ATKINS HOLM MAJUREY



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