Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawbai

# Memo: Advice on the Hākaimangō-Matiatia Marine Reserve Application

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| **To** | Minister of Conservation | **Date submitted** | 18 June 2026 |
| **From** | Lynn Hansberry, Director Regulatory Systems Performance; Privacy of natural persons | | |

## Purpose – Te aronga

1. In May 2026, you asked us to re-submit advice on a decision on the Hākaimangō-Matiatia marine reserve application (the application). This memo attaches the most recent advice and provides an update regarding the Ngāti Pāoa Treaty settlement.

## Background and context – Te horopaki

2. On 29 November 2024, we provided you with Departmental advice package 24-B-0566. It included a detailed analysis of the statutory requirements for your decision on the application and a briefing with recommendations.

3. On 13 April 2025, you noted your views at that time on the recommendations in the briefing. Officials met with you on 23 April 2025 to discuss your decision. Officials were instructed to provide you with a draft decision letter reflecting your decision and considerations.

4. On 28 May 2025, we provided further advice through Departmental advice package 25-B-0220. The briefing provided you with a draft decision letter to record your decision on the application and your reasoning on the matter. It also provided you with a blank decision briefing for you to record your final decisions.

## Ngāti Pāoa Settlement

5. On 1 July 2020, the Crown acknowledged the Ngāti Pāoa Iwi Trust (Iwi Trust) as the post-settlement governance entity (PSGE) for Ngāti Paoa. The Ngāti Pāoa Deed of Settlement was signed in March 2021, and the Ngāti Paoa Claims Settlement Act 2025 was enacted in November 2025, coming into effect on 4 March 2026.

6. For the purposes of the application, our advice recognised the Iwi Trust as the PSGE representing the interests of the Ngāti Pāoa iwi. Our advice also acknowledged the Ngāti Pāoa Trust Board (Trust Board) as a validly constituted Ngāti Pāoa entity that continues to have support from some uri of Ngāti Pāoa. The Iwi Trust objects to the proposed marine reserve, and the Trust Board supports it.

7. With the Ngāti Paoa Claims Settlement Act coming into effect in March, we have re-looked at our advice. Because our advice acknowledges the Iwi Trust as the PSGE, our advice remains unchanged.

## Issues, opportunities and risks

8. A decision to declare or not declare the marine reserve risks public criticism and legal challenges against Ministers, for example, by Ngāti Pāoa, who hold diverging views



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and may challenge the decision either way, or by the Applicant who may not agree with the decision or process and challenge it.

9. Departmental advice package 24-B-0566 explains the risks and legal implications of either approving or declining the application.[1] The advice also sets out the financial implications of approving the application,[2] and explains the consultation undertaken on the proposed marine reserve.[3]

## Next steps – Ngā tāwhaitanga

10. To support your decisions, attached briefing package 25-B-0220 includes a draft decision letter and a decision briefing to record your final decisions.

**Attachment:** 25-B-0220 – Further advice on decision on the Hākaimangō-Matiatia marine reserve application

**ENDS**

[1] 24-B-0566, Decision on the Hākaimangō-Matiatia marine reserve application, pages 14-15, 18-22.
[2] Ibid., 16-17.

[3] Ibid.,16.



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