Media Release

23 NOVEMBER 2026

Court date for Stella Passage development appeals

Port of Tauranga Limited (NZX:POT) today advised that the appeals against the fast-track approval of the Stella Passage development are expected to be heard from 5 April 2027.

A priority fixture has been scheduled at the High Court in Hamilton. The approval has been appealed by three iwi parties, and two hapū parties have applied for a judicial review of the decision. All five cases will be heard in a single hearing expected to last up to five days.

Approval of the Stella Passage development was granted on 7 September by an expert panel under the Fast-track Approvals Act. The development involves extending the Sulphur Point container berth by 385 metres (in two stages) and the Mount Maunganui wharves by 315 metres, by converting existing cargo storage land within the Port's current footprint. It also involves associated reclamation of the land behind the new wharves and dredging of the passage.

Appeals have been filed by: Ngāi Te Rangi Settlement Trust, Ngāti Pūkenga and Ngāti Ranginui Iwi Society Incorporated/Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Ranginui Settlement Trust/Ngāti Ranginui Fisheries Trust. The applications for judicial review have been filed by: Ngāti Kuku Hapū Trust and Ngā Tai ki Mauao Manatōpū/Ngā Hapū o Ngā Moutere Trust.

For more information, please contact:
Rochelle Lockley
GM Communications
021 865 884
Email rochelle.lockley@port-tauranga.co.nz

Port of Tauranga
Connecting New Zealand and the World