



**Speaking Notes – 6 November 2023**  
**Hearing 2 - Archaeological Sites and Built Heritage**

1. My full name is Robert Te Aranga Rawiri. I am the Chapter Lead of Critical Environment Management at Spark New Zealand Trading Limited, a position I have held since November 2021.
2. I manage Spark's wider group of Engineering Asset Managers across our national portfolio which houses Spark's and our customers' networks that include Mobile Core (including 4G & 5G), PSTN, Colocation & Corporate Data Centres, Radio & Paging Emergency Networks, International Transmission & Satellite Services, and other services.
3. I have been involved with various structural projects at the Hamilton Exchange Facility building in Caro Street. Hamilton is an old building that needs substantial repair, remediation and upgrade works undertaken in order to ensure that it can be safely used into the future. In the near future there are three main workstreams which are required to be undertaken based on the current condition of the HEF. These workstreams are associated with building components that are essentially at their end of life. This work is not minor and includes:
  - a. First: Foundation strengthening, following a poor seismic performance rating.
  - b. Secondly: Replacement of façade panels. This is a combination of the seismic upgrade and cladding panel durability. Future works will result in changes to the facade of the building's external visual appearance.
  - c. And thirdly: Floor strengthening and beam capacity. The flooring and beam system is currently in a serious state of disrepair. Upgrade / intervention works are required internally on most of the floors to eliminate temporary measures (safety nets and a hardhat policy) which are currently being employed.
4. These works are non-negotiable and are likely to require significant modification to the building, including the exterior of the building, which I understand is the main reason for its categorisation as a "heritage" building.
5. It is therefore inappropriate for the building to be listed as a Schedule building.
6. I am happy to answer any questions the Panel might have.