

Your Comment on the Taranaki VTM Project

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments.

1. Contact Details	
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.	
Organisation name (if relevant)	Opunake Boat and Underwater Club Inc
First name	██████
Last name	██████
Postal address	██
Phone number	██████████
Email (<i>a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you</i>)	████████████████████

2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment			
☒	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	☐	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

3. Please select the effects (positive or negative) that your comments address:			
☒	Economic Effects	☒	Sedimentation and Optical Water Quality Effects
☒	Effects on Coastal Processes	☒	Benthic Ecology and Primary Productivity Effects
☒	Fished Species	☒	Seabirds
☒	Marine Mammals	☐	Noise Effects
☒	Human Health Effects of the Marine Discharge Activities	☒	Visual, Seascape and Natural Character Effects
☐	Air Quality Effects	☐	Effects on Existing Interests
☐	Other Considerations (please specify):		

The Opunake Boat and Underwater Club Inc has a membership of approximately 120 persons and 85 craft that recreationally fish the area north of the proposed mining area. We have serious concerns regarding the lack of substantiated environmental damage information from the Trans-Tasman Resources Limited proposal to mine the South Taranaki seabed.

1. To our knowledge, there have been no trials nor evidence provided as to the size and extent of the expected sediment plume, nor relating to damage to the ecosystems near the site.
2. This is a known transit region for Humpback and other whales in their seasonal migrations, we are concerned that this will be interfered with due to noise and sediment clouds
3. Maui dolphins have been documented and are known to be resident on the coast just north of the proposed mining area, these are a very rare and fragile species and must not be interfered with.
4. As recreational fishers, club members dispute the allegation that there is no sea life resident in the sea floor of the area that TTR proposes to mine, we know from experience that these beds contain a whole ecosystem of worm life and similar that is the food source for sea floor dwelling species. Mining will totally destroy this ecosystem for many years or possibly decades into the future.

In summary, we do not support this application due to TTR's lack of consideration of the above points.

Thank you for your comments