

APPENDIX 37

NZTA CORRESPONDENCE

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Reference: Application-2026-0799

23 July 2026

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

C/- Angela Xygalas

Sent via Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe,

**Northland Shipyard and Dry Dock Project – Marsden Point, Whangārei – NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
Comments**

Thank you for request for written comments from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) on the proposed Northland Shipyard and Dry Dock facility at Marsden Point, Whangārei. NZTA understands that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is progressing the proposal under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. NZTA provides these comments in its capacity as road controlling authority for Port Marsden Highway (SH15) and State Highway 1 (SH1) where these routes, operation or the associated infrastructure may be affected by the proposal.

Proposal

The proposal is to construct and operate a marine maintenance operations facility adjoining the western side of the existing Northport facility at Marsden Point. The proposal includes reclamation of approximately 9.5 hectares, wharf structures, dredging, fixed plant and buildings, laydown areas, access roads, staff parking, loading and waste collection areas, and public access to a fishing platform.

The Integrated Transport Assessment prepared for the applicant identifies that the facility may cater for up to 500 full-time equivalent staff. Operations are expected to include two staff rotations, with staff arrivals at approximately 6:00 am and a shift changeover at approximately 2:00 pm. A new access from Marsden Bay Drive is proposed, along with a staff car park on Marsden Bay Drive anticipated to accommodate approximately 450 car parking spaces.

NZTA Interests

NZTA's interests relate to the safe and efficient operation of the state highway network, including SH15, the Marsden Bay Drive / SH15 intersection, the SH15 / SH1 intersection, and any other state highway matters arising from construction and operation of the proposed facility.

NZTA Review of Transport Effects

NZTA has reviewed the applicant's Integrated Transport Assessment and Operational Traffic Management Plan, with independent transport advice from AGP Consultants Limited. The review has focused on potential effects on SH15, including the Marsden Bay Drive / SH15 intersection, the adequacy of the Operational Traffic Management Plan, and any other matters that may affect the state highway or its operation.

The review accepts the applicant's conclusion that, based on the current proposal, the operational traffic effects on SH15 and its intersections are expected to be acceptable. This includes the modelling of the Marsden Bay Drive / SH15 intersection and the sensitivity testing of the SH15 / SH1 and SH15 / One Tree Point Road intersections. NZTA also notes that the applicant's modelling is conservative, including the assumed vehicle occupancy rate and assessment of staff movements during maximum-demand scenarios.

NZTA Position

Subject to the conditions recommended below, NZTA does not oppose the proposal on transport grounds. NZTA's position is that SH15 and its intersections with Marsden Bay Drive and SH1 are expected to provide safe access to the development during construction and operation, provided that construction traffic is appropriately managed and the transport assessment is revisited if the proposed staff parking arrangements change.

Please note, if the proposed staff car park is relocated, materially changed in size, or the associated traffic distribution at the Marsden Bay Drive / SH15 intersection changes, an updated traffic effects assessment, including revised intersection modelling where necessary, must be provided to NZTA for review before the change is implemented.

Recommended Conditions

NZTA recommends that any approval include conditions to address the following matters:

1. A Construction Traffic Management Plan prepared by a suitably qualified traffic engineer before any construction activity commences on the site. This should be provided to NZTA for comments prior to being submitted to the Whangārei District Council for approval.

This Construction Traffic Management Plan should include:

- a) The expected timing of large construction plant and heavy machinery movements to and from the site,
 - b) The mechanisms to be used to maintain the safety, convenience and efficiency of road network operations.
 - c) Methods proposed to avoid and remedy the deposit of debris or detritus onto public roads.
 - d) The effectiveness of the Construction Traffic Management Plan must be reviewed at regular intervals throughout the construction period, and the site safety supervisor must implement any additional measures necessary to maintain the safe operation of the road network.
2. A Operational Traffic Management Plan prepared prior to the operation of the shipyard and drydock. This should be provided to NZTA for comments prior to being submitted to the Whangārei District Council for approval.

This Operational Traffic Management Plan should include:

- a) Details on shift patterns, staff arrival and departure profiles, heavy vehicle movements, delivery and waste collection arrangements, loading booking procedures, visitor access arrangements, oversize / over-dimension vehicle procedures, monitoring requirements, and review triggers if operating patterns change.

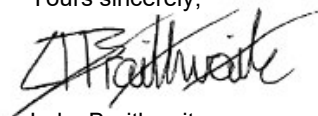
Conclusion

NZTA supports the core findings of the applicant's Integrated Transport Assessment and Operational Traffic Management Plan as they relate to the state highway network. NZTA considers that there are no transport or traffic engineering effects on SH15 or SH1 that would preclude approval of the proposal, subject to the proposal proceeding as it has been assessed and the inclusion of conditions to the effect of the recommended conditions above.

Please note that this letter does not constitute NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi comments in regard to the substantive FTAA. NZTA will provide comments on this application if invited to do so by the expert panel, in due course.

If you have any queries regarding the above or wish to discuss matters further, please feel free to contact the Environmental Planning team at environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Luke Braithwaite

Senior Planner - Poutiaki Taiao / Environmental Planning, System Design, on behalf of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.