

Your Comment on the Bream Bay Sand Extraction project

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments and indicate whether you can receive further communications from us by email to substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz.

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)	Ocean Beach Residents Association		
First name	John		
Last name	Green		
Postal address	[REDACTED], Whangarei Heads, Whangarei 0174		
Home phone / Mobile phone	[REDACTED]	Work phone	
Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)	[REDACTED]		

2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

Please provide your comments below, include additional pages as needed.

Ocean Beach Residents Association Inc. (OBRA), Whangarei Heads thanks the panel for the opportunity to comment on the Application 082 by McCallum Brothers Limited (MBL) applied for under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

Introduction

Ocean Beach is a small community, situated near the beach, under Te Whara (Bream Head), with the Whangārei Harbour entrance nearby at Urquharts Bay. As a coastal community we utilise our marine environment recreationally for activities such as swimming, surfing, fishing and collection of shellfish. Additionally, the coastal communities in Bream Bay are destinations for many tourists and visitors.

New Zealand's coastline is affected by both the movement of sand and sand dunes as a natural function of climate events. As coastal citizens, we know that sand dune structure and marine ecosystems are extremely fragile but, as we know, the frequency and severity of major climate events is increasing. At this time we should be attempting to reduce anthropogenic impacts on

ecosystems in case the changes exacerbate the pressures that climate change is already imposing on them. Ocean ecology is a precious resource that must be protected now and for the future. As a country, we need to be working on strategies to enhance climate resilience, to mitigate this increased vulnerability.

Socio-environmental concerns

Because of our concerns about the environmental degradation and long-term harm that sand-mining will cause, Ocean Beach residents have been actively involved in the public protests held by Bream Bay Guardians Society. We also attended the Whangarei District Council meeting when councillors unanimously agreed to oppose the MBL Sandmining application (1).

McCallum Brothers have revealed themselves as untrustworthy, by breaching the stipulations of the consent granted for the Pakiri sand mining licence (2). This raises questions about the trustworthiness and monitoring processes of the current application.

Also well supported, is the argument that the economic benefits to Northland from this project are unclear (3). There is limited evidence of job creation and the payment for the extracted sand is to the Crown. Financial benefits for private industry will leave local communities carrying the potential risks.

Enough mined sand already exists to supply concrete construction in New Zealand. Sustainable alternatives to sand for use in construction need to be encouraged and supported.

As coastal citizens, we are guided by the reports submitted to the fast-track panel detailing potential harm to marine ecology and coastal geomorphology. Marine breeding grounds and food supply chains will be severely disrupted, if not destroyed by sand mining in Bream Bay. Extensive research by experts supports opposition at best, and extreme caution at least, to the sand extraction proposal (4,5).

Conclusion

In closing, OBRA strongly opposes consent to the MBL fast-track sand extraction application. In the instance of the application succeeding, we request a reduced duration be considered and that stringent, independent monitoring for long term impacts is maintained. Reports submitted to the Fast-track panel by subject experts have outlined what these should be.

Ocean Beach Residents Association, May 2026

References

- (1) Whangarei District Council Meeting minutes (18.12.2025).
- (2) McCallum Brothers Ltd v Auckland Council - (2024) NZEnvC 75
- (3) Axiom Economics (12.02.2025) Hayden Green. Bream Bay sand extraction: assessment of economic effects.
- (4) Boffa Miskell (15.09.2025) Dr. Sharon De Luca. Peer Review Proposed McCallum Sandmining at Bream Bay. BM250630.
- (5) University of Auckland. (21.09.2025) Prof. Mark Dickson. Peer review of Coastal Geomorphology and coastal processes.