

Marin Construction
2 Akaroa St
Parnell, Auckland

22 April 2026

SUBMISSION IN STRONG SUPPORT OF NOT DREDGING SAND IN BREAM BAY

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you as Managing Director of Marin Construction, a leading concrete structures company that has delivered many of Auckland's largest projects since 1999. We have deep, long-established relationships and extensive knowledge of the concrete industry across the region.

We are writing this formal letter in strong support of opposing any proposal to dredge sand from Bream Bay.

Our business depends on a secure, sustainable supply of sand through our ready-mix concrete suppliers for all our Auckland contracts. From our many years of experience in the industry, we are firmly of the view that Kaipara Harbour already has more than enough capacity to meet current and future demand without the need to dredge Bream Bay.

Many companies in the past have successfully dredged sand from Kaipara Harbour, and although operations are now down to only one active dredger, the existing plant and infrastructure could be readily re-engaged if required to increase supply. This established resource makes additional dredging in Bream Bay entirely unnecessary.

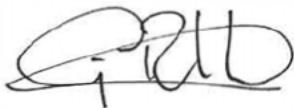
Further evidence that current sand supply is more than adequate can be seen in the stability of concrete pricing in Auckland. Taking a standard 30 MPa mix and using 2022 as the reference year, prices increased by only 4.26% in 2023, 0.42% in 2024, and 1.26% in 2025, before decreasing by 3.06% in 2026. This consistent pricing over a four-year period clearly demonstrates that supply is meeting demand without strain, and that there is no market-driven justification for opening Bream Bay to dredging.

As a forward-thinking company, we are also acutely aware of the future direction of material supply in New Zealand. The long-term solution for the concrete industry lies in manufactured sand, not continued natural marine dredging. Manufactured sand—produced by crushing rock or recycling concrete and other materials—is cheaper, cleaner, more environmentally responsible, and fully scalable. We are confident that manufactured sand will increasingly become the dominant source of supply for New Zealand’s concrete companies, significantly reducing our industry’s reliance on marine extraction.

We therefore urge the consent authority to reject the current application to dredge Bream Bay and, instead, to prioritise the full use of existing Kaipara Harbour resources together with the accelerated adoption of manufactured sand. This balanced approach will protect Bream Bay’s valuable marine environment while ensuring the long-term needs of the construction sector are met.

In conclusion, Marin Construction strongly recommends that the consent authority reject the proposal to dredge sand in Bream Bay. Doing so will safeguard the marine values of the area and demonstrate clear leadership in sustainable resource management for the benefit of our community and future generations

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Blaikie', written over a horizontal line.

Craig Blaikie
Managing Director
Marin Construction

