

Bream Bay Sand Extraction Fast-track Application
Environmental Protection Authority
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Thursday 14 May 2026

Dear Bream Bay Sand Extraction project expert panel,

Whangārei District Council acknowledges the opportunity to provide comments on the application by McCallum Brothers Limited for the Bream Bay Sand Extraction Project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

Given community interest in this proposal, Council has unanimously adopted a political position, via an elected member Notice of Motion, to strongly encourage meaningful involvement of stakeholder groups within the Fast-track process for this application.

In doing so, Council considered it particularly important that community-based organisations, including the Bream Bay Guardians, are able to contribute their knowledge, perspectives, and any reports or technical work they have commissioned, so that decision-makers benefit from informed local input.

As outlined in the application material, the primary approvals sought relate to coastal and wildlife permits within the coastal marine area, which fall outside the statutory jurisdiction of Whangārei District Council.

Accordingly, Council's role in respect of this application is limited, we acknowledge that the substantive technical assessment of these matters appropriately sits with the relevant consenting authorities, and the Expert Panel.

Council also acknowledges the significant level of community interest in this proposal and the important role of iwi, hapū, community groups, and other stakeholders in contributing to the overall understanding of potential effects.

We are aware that groups such as the Bream Bay Guardians, alongside mana whenua and other stakeholders, have commissioned detailed technical advice covering a wide range of environmental, social, cultural, and economic matters.

Council considers that this broader body of work provides an important contribution to the Panel's understanding of the proposal and its potential impacts. In particular, these perspectives are considered to provide the Expert Panel valuable insight into matters extending beyond Council's statutory role.

Alongside this body of work Council has an interest in ensuring that any potential effects on the Whangārei District, its communities, and its infrastructure are appropriately identified and considered. Given Council's limited jurisdiction in relation to the approvals sought, our specific comments are high level, and necessarily narrow in scope:

- Potential land-based effects

While the offshore extraction itself is outside Council's jurisdiction, the transport and handling of extracted sand within the district (including through Port Nikau and on local transport networks) may have downstream effects on Council-managed infrastructure and services. While these matters are listed as outside of the scope of this application, and Council will closely monitor them, they are raised for the awareness of the Expert Panel.

- Interface with the coastal environment above mean high water springs (MHWS)

Council has an interest in any indirect effects that may arise at or above MHWS, including any changes to coastal processes or conditions that may influence Council assets or land-based environments. It is requested that the Expert Panel carefully consider this matter, taking into account technical reports provided by stakeholders.

- Noise effects

Technical assessments provided indicate that predicted noise levels from the proposed activity are expected to comply with relevant limits by a significant margin.

Council notes this alignment with planning framework expectations within the district, particularly in relation to noise standards.

- Economic context

Council notes the economic assessment identifying regional benefits associated with the supply of sand to northern markets. Again, the Expert Panel is encouraged to carefully consider the views and technical reports provided by stakeholders.

In closing we appreciate the opportunity to provide comment, encouraging the Expert Panel to give due consideration to the breadth of community and stakeholder views presented, along with their technical reports, in reaching its decision.

Nāku noa, nā



Ken Couper
Mayor
Whangārei District Council



David Baldwin
Councillor – Bream Bay Ward
Whangārei District Council