

Submission from Northland Regional Council

In regard to a submission for this conference, I make the following comments:

- The application is complex in regard to the number of effects that have been considered and the technical nature of the assessment required for these effect;
- The proposed management of adverse effects associated with this proposal rely on management plans that are to be approved by the Expert Panel. These management plans have been based on the technical assessment of effects and would require knowledge of the subject matter to ensure that they are adequate for their purpose;
- A possible legal interpretation question has been raised inhouse in regard to whether “Regional” benefit is solely in the region where the activity is being undertaken or does it include benefits in other regions;
- Council has limited its assessment of the application to the broad topics of ecological and coastal processes effects, which it has had externally peer reviewed. In the opinion of the peer reviewers there are still some outstanding questions on the conclusions of the applicant’s effect assessment for these two areas.
- The Council has also been provided an independent review of the economic benefits of the application which raises questions regarding the actual benefits.
- For the Convenors information, I have attached a recent staff paper presented to a full Council workshop to finalise its formal comments to the Fast Track Expert Panel on this application when they are requested. This paper covers in more detail the two issues raised above regarding the conclusion of Councils’ peer reviewers and the economic benefits peer review.
- As always, Council is willing to engage directly with the Expert Panel, as necessary, to progress the processing of the application;
- In regard to the conditions, Council generally accepts those that have been presented with the application. However it is likely that comments will be provided on the conditions in its formal comments to the Expert Panel.

Stuart Savill

Consents Manager

Northland Regional Council