

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)	The Waipu Residents and Ratepayers Association		
First name	Marilyn		
Last name	Cox		
Postal address	[REDACTED]		
Home phone / Mobile phone	[REDACTED]	Work phone	[REDACTED]
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 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.

Submission to the Bream Bay Sand Mining Expert panel

From the Waipu Residents and Ratepayers Association

May 2026

When the first cruise ship The Azamara Pursuit arrived at Northport on Saturday 18 January 2025 the Bream Bay News asked its captain what his first impressions were as the ship came into Whangārei Harbour.

He replied “Your beautiful long white sandy beach”

Our local secondary school Bream Bay College has a campaign underway to bring more overseas students here to study. The school sees this as a way of enhancing international understanding amongst our Bream Bay students as well as supporting the school's finances. The teachers running this campaign say the school's proximity to the beaches of Bream Bay and the many opportunities this offers such as surfing, swimming, coastal walks, fishing and diving is the school's most important draw card.

The health of our beach is vital to the well being of our communities. The beach is the biggest asset we have. It cannot be placed at risk.

There is strong opposition in Bream Bay to the McCallum application. Thousands of people turned out to events on the beach organised by the Bream Bay Guardians to demonstrate this. There are many "No Sand Mining" placards nailed to fences.

Our local retail businesses rely on the crowds who come here over summer to tide them over the leaner months.

Many local people depend for their employment on tourism and hospitality industries. We have three big campgrounds and four motels located in our area as well as numerous smaller bed and breakfast operations. There are charter fishing businesses, surf schools, a surf shop and cafes and restaurants all reliant on visitors coming here to visit our beach.

Over and above all the commercial advantages the beach and the bay bring us is their importance to the health and well being of our community. Any day of the week and time of the day there are many people walking, jogging, swimming, bird watching, surfing, horse riding, surfcasting, gathering tuatua or heading out in boats to fish or dive in the bay. Having a pristine beach environment is a major determinant for the health and well being of our people. For most of us the pristine Bream Bay environment with its clear waters, healthy sand dunes and long stretches of clean white sand is the reason we live here.

Large numbers of holidaymakers visit Bream Bay each year. Many are from Auckland as our campgrounds offer an inexpensive holiday without having to travel too far.

Overnight stays at our three biggest beach side campgrounds and holiday parks for the previous calendar year

Camp Waipu Cove –	81,840
Ruakākā Beach Holiday Park –	28,390
The Department of Conservation campground at Uretiti -	48,280

(The Department of Conservation supplied supplied guest night figures from July 2025 – April 2026 so for 10 months only.)

Total 158,510

Our visitors come here to enjoy our pristine beach environment and bring a considerable amount of income and employment to our communities. In addition to these three big campgrounds there are four motels and numerous smaller accommodation businesses in Bream Bay not to mention the many people who come to stay with friends and family all drawn by the beach and the clear waters and fishing in our bay.

Local businesses depend on the summer trade to see them through the leaner winter months.

- Carl Morley, who owns the Ruakākā Lotto, Post and Gift Shop said, “We need the holiday makers here. They definitely help our business. We need the beach to continue to be the draw card it is in bringing visitors to our area.”
- Alana McCartney who, with her husband Dean, owns and operates Waipu Hammer Hardware –“ Our business relies heavily on trade during the busy summer holiday period, with sales increasing by approximately 30% during January and February. “The influx of holidaymakers who come to enjoy our pristine beaches and the fishing and diving opportunities in our bay plays an important role in supporting local businesses. This seasonal activity helps us continue operating year-round and maintain services that are also valued by local residents throughout the quieter months”
- Grant Egan Owner/Operator Ruakākā FreshChoice Supermarket - “We have a large increase in customers over the summer period thanks to people visiting the beaches in Bream Bay. This influx helps us through the quieter winter months”.

As an indication of how much people who live here engage with our beach we have two very active and well supported surf lifesaving clubs: one at Waipu Cove and another at Ruakākā.

The Waipu Cove Surf Lifesaving Club has a junior surf club with 160 children and 80 senior surf patrol members. In addition there is a community of people involved in the club who support operations.

The Ruakākā Surf Lifesaving Club also has 160 junior members. It has 50 lifeguards and a total membership of 374.

We have two very popular local fishing clubs. The Marsden Bay Fishing Club has 690 members. It also holds regular competitions with many additional people taking part. The Waipu Fishing Club has 105 members and also holds activities, including an annual take a kid fishing event that involves many more people.

The Bream Bay Guardians have demonstrated that there are very real environmental risks if this sand mining proposal goes ahead. The BB Guardians have also shown that there is no sand shortage in Auckland and therefore no reason to subject the communities of Bream Bay to these risks.

We ask that the application of McCallum Brothers Ltd. to mine sand in Bream Bay be declined in its entirety.

Our submission is aligned to that of the Ruakākā Residents and Ratepayers Association.

Thank you for your comments



22/5/2026

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to convey my deep concern about the potential for sandmining by McCallum Bros Ltd to be approved in Bream Bay.

Waipu Pharmacy is local business that relies heavily on tourism/ visitors to the region to ensure it's viability. To continue providing our essential services to the community, we must ensure that we keep these customers visiting the region.

Sandmining in Bream Bay will result in the degradation of our local beaches, as has been clearly evidenced in the research conducted by Bream Bay Guardians.

Our beaches are the main drawcard for visitors to the area, and it is a logical conclusion to draw that degradation of our beaches will result in decreased visitor numbers, decreased customer numbers for local businesses, and a reduction in viability for these businesses.

I can attest that during periods of bad weather when visitor numbers lessen, the reduction in turnover in my pharmacy is significant, and detrimental. Were this decrease in visitor numbers to be long term instead of short term this would have a large impact upon my business and could result in the loss of jobs for my staff, and the loss of services for my community.

I implore decision-makers to consider the significant negative effects that sandmining will have upon the wider community and businesses of Bream Bay.

Kind regards,

Brenda Wells

Waipu Pharmacy