

## 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](mailto: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.			
<b>Organisation name (if relevant)</b>	Bream Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association (BBRRA)		
<b>First name</b>	Jules		
<b>Last name</b>	Flight		
<b>Postal address</b>	108 One Tree Point Road, One Tree Point 0118		
<b>Home phone / Mobile phone</b>	██████████	<b>Work phone</b>	
<b>Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)</b>	██████████		

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.**

The Ruakaka Ratepayers and Residents Association (RRRA) are most appreciative of the Fast Track Panel giving us the opportunity to express our concerns with the Sand mining application by the McCullum Brothers (MBL) and thank you for the opportunity,

The Bream Bay beach is largely unspoilt. This is where we walk, jog, play, picnic, sunbathe, swim, fish, gather shell fish, birdwatch, and at regulated times ride horses. Additional estuary and harbour activities include kayaking, paddle boarding, kite surfing, wing foiling and waka ama. The beach is in our DNA. We do however share our the beach annually with thousands of visitors\* who in addition to the above, camp, participate in beach volley ball and surf lifesaving competitions, and enter into fun runs. These visitors support the camp grounds, B and Bs, motels, hotels, cafes, restaurants, takeaways, supermarkets, shops, petrol stations and suppliers of fishing tackle. Recreational fishing in the bay is huge, fishing charters are very popular and diving is a regular activity. The beach is a section of the iconic Te Araroa Trail and through-walkers use the local shops to stock up. There is a whole social fabric dependent on the beach and bay, and the visitors

that they attract. The numbers who recently flocked to the beach to express their opposition to sand mining was evidence of how important it is to people of all persuasions both local and beyond.

Fish and shellfish are important for a balanced diet as they offer a source of high quality protein and essential vitamins. The Bream Bay recreational fishery may be at risk if sand mining is permitted. Some families depend on supplementing their food through various fishing techniques both from the beach and from boats. Shell fish may be particularly vulnerable to sand mining especially those gathered from Mair Bank at the North end of the beach.

Ocean sand mining equates to the stealthy theft of sand. It strips away the foundations of diverse marine life and clouds the seas that sustain entire ecosystems. The seabed is not an endless quarry, We can easily see the damage that has occurred with the on-shore mining in the dunes adjacent to Uretiti. What is mined under the sea is unsighted and notoriously difficult to monitor,

Seabed sand looks like an easy resource to exploit. On the contrary it is a fragile, slow forming part of the oceans architecture. If damaged it may not return to its current state within any human timeframe. The potential damage also to the Ruakaka beach and sand dunes is a risk that we cannot take. Our generation must invest in the future and leave future generations a bay and a beach in the virtual pristine state that we now know, not one despoiled by a large business concern barging in where it is not wanted.

An aggravating factor is that Channel Infrastructure will, in late July, exercise their consent to dredge and deepen the channel to accommodate larger oil tankers. This work will be undertaken by MBL as they have the only equipment that can cope. This 'sand mining' is of importance to the local and national economy, and to fuel security. The sand will be used on-shore at the port. Our Association support this activity. However one seabed hole is enough without MBL creating other holes purely for their own benefit.

The work completed by the Bream Bay Guardians is of the highest calibre. It is short of exaggeration but long on validation. We can detect how rigorous the interrogation of the facts by experts has been. Our Association agree with all five points of the Guardian's opposition to sand mining as expanded in their submission.

The Ruakaka Residents and Ratepayers Association believe that, on the weight of evidence, and the very strong public opposition, the MBL sand mining application be denied.

\*The RRRA have cooperated with the Waipu Residents ad Ratepayers Association in the collection of data to support this contention.

**Thank you for your comments**