

To: Gascoigne Wicks and the Marlborough Sounds Aquaculture Project applicants
From: Brad Coombs and Josh Hunt
Date: 2 October 2026
Subject: Landscape and Natural Character Assessments and Peer Review

JOINT MEMORANDUM: Landscape and Natural Character Peer Review

Purpose

We have prepared landscape and natural character assessments for the proposed marine farming activities forming part of the Marlborough Sounds Aquaculture Project.

Brad Coombs has prepared the assessments relating to:

- Guards Bay; and
- Papatua, Te Anamāhanga / Port Gore.

Josh Hunt has prepared the assessments relating to:

- Onapua Bay;
- Hapūkū Rock; and
- Okuri Bay.

We have also reviewed each other's assessments, including their descriptions of the receiving environments, assessment methodology, consideration of the relevant statutory landscape and natural character values, and conclusions concerning landscape, natural character and visual effects. We both visited all five of the assessment locations via boat on 4 and 5 December 2025.

Assessment Approach

In our opinion, the assessments have been undertaken in accordance with the principles and assessment framework set out in Te Tangi a te Manu: Aotearoa New Zealand Landscape Assessment Guidelines.

In particular, the assessments:

- consider the relevant physical, associative and perceptual dimensions of landscape;
- distinguish between landscape, natural character and visual effects;
- identify and respond to the relevant receiving environments and spatial scales;
- consider the values identified in the Marlborough Environment Plan, including the applicable Outstanding Natural Landscape and natural character overlays;
- assess the proposals against the existing environment, including established marine farming and other existing land and water-based activities; and
- apply professional judgement in evaluating the nature, magnitude and significance of the anticipated effects.

Peer Review

Our peer-review process has included consideration of the factual basis, methodology, reasoning and conclusions of the respective assessments. Matters identified through that process have been discussed or recorded through comments and amendments to the reports.

The peer-review process has not required either author to adopt the other's conclusions without independent consideration. Each of us remains responsible for the opinions expressed in the assessments we have prepared and has exercised independent professional judgement when reviewing the other assessments.

Conclusion

Subject to the qualifications and recommendations contained in the individual reports, we consider that the assessments have been prepared using an appropriate and generally consistent methodology. In our opinion, they provide a suitable and credible basis for considering the landscape, natural character and visual effects of the respective proposals.

We are satisfied that the reports appropriately identify the relevant landscape and natural character values, assess the effects of the proposed marine farms on those values, and explain the basis for the conclusions reached.

Signed:



Brad Coombs
Registered NZILA Landscape Architect
Date: 2 October 2026



Josh Hunt
Registered NZILA Landscape Architect
Date: 2 October 2026