

Appendix D

Presentation of Petition Opposing Mining of Marine Sand – Te Akau Bream Bay to Whangarei District Council Meeting on Thursday 29th April 9am.

Kia ora koutou, Chair and Councillors, and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Bruce Copeland, and I'm here today on behalf of Concerned Communities of Bream Bay against Marine Sand Mining, Bream Bay Guardians Society, and the more than 14,500 people who have signed two active petitions opposing marine sand mining in Bream Bay — petitions hosted on Action Station and by the Endangered Species Foundation.

I'm here to formally present these petitions to you.

These petitions call on local councils including Whangarei District Council to formally oppose the 'McCallum Brothers' application to extract 8.5 million cubic metres of sand from Bream Bay over the next 35 years.

5 days a week for 35 years - this is not a minor activity.

It is large-scale, industrial seabed extraction in a sensitive and culturally significant marine environment. The petitions cite:

- The lack of genuine consultation with the community and mana whenua.
- The threats to critically endangered species like the tara iti – the New Zealand fairy tern.
- The risk to local surf breaks, scallop beds, and sensitive marine habitats.
- The broader concern that this project runs counter to any modern definition of sustainability.
- The social and cultural opposition from mana whenua, including Patuharakeke and Ngāti Wai.

The strength of opposition continues to grow.

- 26th January, over 1500 people including strong representation from local hapu rallied at Ruakākā Beach to spell out the words 'SAY NO'.
- 5th March, a powerful formal claim was lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal by Mere Kepa, on behalf of Te Parawhau and Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau. It challenges the inclusion of this project in the Fast-Track Approvals Bill and the failure to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- 16th March, hundreds of local fishers and community leaders launched a boat protest in Bream Bay, sending a clear message: this is our moana, and it will be defended.
- 22nd April over 80 supporters attended NRC Public Meeting at the Waipu Surf Club to show their opposition to mining sand in Bream Bay

We are asking this Council to take a clear stand:

1. Oppose this project — both in principle and in practice.
2. Promote, and encourage the use of existing and new sand alternatives
3. Ask for independent assessments to be provided to decision-making panels, including:
 - a) comprehensive cost-benefit analysis assessing the full economic, environmental, cultural, social impacts

- b) ecological, economic, and cultural significance of Bream Bay, including its role as habitat for threatened and migratory species, its marine ecosystems, importance to biodiversity and fisheries, and its recreational value
- c) risks and liabilities associated with the proposed sand mining activities, including long-term consequences for marine ecosystems, coastal communities, tourism and climate change
- 4. Publicly acknowledge your concerns and the risks to Bream Bay's ecosystems, marine habitats, surf breaks, scallop beds, fisheries, endangered species, tourism and climate change
- 5. Support mana whenua in their efforts to protect their rohe moana
- 6. Uphold the intent of Te Tiriti o Waitangi by ensuring meaningful consultation, which to date has been severely lacking.

The flaws in the proposal are already surfacing.

Hayden Green published a piece in the NZ Herald that thoroughly debunks the economic justification for this project. Fundamentally, there is no benefit for Northland, or for the people of Bream Bay. The benefits of this proposal sit squarely in the pockets of Auckland based McCallum Brothers.

Auckland Council rejected a similar application by McCallum Brothers at Mangawhai-Pākiri. That decision is now before the High Court. It is entirely reasonable to assume this Bream Bay proposal will face legal challenges too — from iwi, from communities, and from independent experts.

It is also worth remembering that this is not just a local issue. All over the world, sand mining has been linked to coastal erosion, fish stock collapse, mangrove destruction, and even the loss of entire communities. The UN has declared sand the most-extracted and least-regulated mineral on Earth. New Zealand is not immune. We can't keep doing this and pretending it comes without a cost.

There are alternatives and other options.

In closing:

The voices in these petitions are not fringe. They are reasonable, informed, and growing louder by the day. They're asking you — as elected members and stewards to protect what is precious and irreplaceable and to represent the interests and concerns of the Whangarei District.

The Fast-track process excludes community participation of those that are most directly impacted.

We applaud, Far North Mayor Moko Tepania for supporting his local community opposing a fast-tracked marina proposal by advocating for the project to be subject to public consultation.

We are asking you to do the same. To demonstrate leadership, foresight, and respect — for the environment, for tangata whenua, and to represent our concerns and opposition to this proposal.

Bream Bay is not just sand. It is not a quarry. It is home, it is habitat, it is heritage. It is a living system. And it is not for sale. It deserves your protection.

Please stand with us.

Thank you.