Appendix D Aneesa Delpachitra – Marine ecosystems

Before the Fast-track Panel

Under:	The Fast-track Approvals Act 2024
In the matter of:	Beachlands South Fast-track Approval Substantive Application

Statement of advice

ANEESA DELPACHITRA

Marine Ecosystems

Technical Advisor - DOC

16 October 2026

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Introduction

1. My name is Aneesa Delpachitra.

Instruction

2. I am providing expert advice on behalf of the DOC on the Beachlands South – Fast-track application in regards to the marine environment.

Qualification and Experience

3. I hold a Master of Science with Distinction in Marine Science (University of Otago). I am a Technical Advisor in the Marine Ecosystems Team at DOC. Within my role, I have provided advice on matters related to marine ecology, particularly in relation to assessing high value marine biodiversity areas, pollution incident prevention and response, as well as DOC marine monitoring. I also provided marine and estuarine ecology advice on behalf of DOC on the North West Rapid Transit project.

4. My role in relation to the Beachlands South – Fast-track application is to provide expert advice on marine ecology effects on behalf of DOC.

Code of conduct

5. Whilst it is acknowledged this is not an Environment Court proceeding, I confirm that I have read the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court Practice Note 2023. I have complied with the Code of Conduct in the preparation of this advice. Unless I state otherwise, this assessment is within my area of expertise, and I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions I express.

Scope of advice and expert opinion

6. My expert advice will address the description of the existing marine environment in regard to the marine ecosystems present, the description of effects of the proposed activity on that environment and their significance, and the proposed management and mitigation measures to manage those effects.

Sources

7. In preparing this advice I have reviewed:

    a. 0B - Beachlands South Fast-track Approval Substantive Application
    b. 0C – Draft Proposed Conditions Beachlands South Fast Track Application
    c. 10 - Beachlands South Fast-Track Substantive Application Wastewater Concept Design and Assessment
    d. 10A - Beachlands South Wastewater Ocean Outfall: HDD Methodology
    e. 13A – BSLP Fast Track Application: Water Quality Outfall Modelling Study
    f. 13B – BSLP Fast Track Application: Marine ecological impact assessment [including Marine ecological impact assessment Appendices A, B, C and F; 13C and 13D]

Key Issues

Marine ecosystem values present

8. The receiving marine environment contains a range of identified ecological values, including:
    a. Marine Significant Ecological Areas (SEA-M) in proximity to the site as follows:
        i. CMA adjoining the site that is part of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000); and
        ii. CMA adjoining the site comprising three regionally and nationally significant tidal creeks (Waikōpua, Tūranga and Mangemangeroa Creeks) which discharge into the Whitford embayment. The mangrove, oioi rushland, marsh ribbonwood and sea rush communities within the Whitford embayment identified as significant within the Hunua Ecological District;
    b. Subtidal and intertidal seagrass habitat (high ecological value due to At Risk – Declining NZTCS status); and
    c. High values for fish (diversity and abundance, as well as habitat value within Waikopua Creek and the wider Whitford embayment).
9. In my view, the application documents reviewed adequately identify the marine values present in the area.
10. While the application considers individual potential effects of the proposed activities to marine ecosystems. I have not identified any issues of concern with that assessment.
11. Cumulative effects of the activities in the receiving marine environment are not described. It is therefore difficult to comment on how the effects of proposed activities may interact, and how they may add to existing pressures in the receiving marine environment. I therefore recommend that the Applicant assess the cumulative effects of the proposed development on the receiving marine environment.

S53 Matters specific advice

1. Subject to an assessment of cumulative effects, I am broadly satisfied that the proposed conditions are appropriate and will adequately avoid, mitigate and remedy adverse effects on marine ecosystems, excluding marine mammals and seabirds which I have not assessed (see comments by Chloe Corne, DOC).
2. I am able to provide further comment on conditions once an assessment of potential cumulative effects of the proposed activities on marine ecosystems has been provided.

References

de Lange, P. J., Gosden, J., Courtney, S. P., Fergus, A. J., Barkla, J. W., Beadel, S. M., Champion, P. D., Hindmarsh-Walls, R., Makan, T., and Michel, P. (2024). Conservation status of vascular plants in Aotearoa New Zealand, 2023. New Zealand Threat Classification Series 43. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 105 p.