

## 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>	Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama Incorporated		
<b>First name</b>	Hollie		
<b>Last name</b>	Kereopa		
<b>Postal address</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Home phone / Mobile phone</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>Work phone</b>	
<b>Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]		

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, including additional pages as needed.**

**Thank you for your comments**



**FAST-TRACK APPLICATION: BREAM BAY SAND EXTRACTION PROJECT**

**[FTAA-2511-1150]**

COMMENTS FROM HOLLIE KEREOPA (CHAIR) ON BEHALF OF TE KAUIKA O  
PATUHARAKEKE WAKA AMA INCORPORATED ON THE PROPOSED  
FAST-TRACK APPLICATION FOR SAND EXTRACTION IN TE ĀKAU BREAM  
BAY.

20 MAY 2026



## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This statement of evidence was prepared for Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama Incorporated in order to provide comments for the proposed application from McCallum Bros Ltd for resource consents (coastal permits) for sand extraction and coastal discharges in Te Ākau Bream Bay.
- 1.2 My name is Hollie Kereopa and I am the current Chair of Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama Incorporated, a hapū-led Waka Ama club based on the Southern Side of the Whangārei Harbour and the coast of Te Ākau Bream Bay.
- 1.3 I am submitting comments on behalf of our committee, club members, and affiliated whānau surrounding our reason for comment, our primary goals as an emerging Waka Ama rōpū, and our overall position on the proposed sand extraction put forward by the McCallum Bros.
- 1.4 Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama have been invited by the fast-track panel to comment on the proposed sand mining in Te Ākau Bream Bay.
- 1.5 McCallum Bros Ltd have proposed to mine or extract 250m<sup>3</sup> sand per year over a period of 35 years, covering a total area of 15.4km<sup>2</sup> approximately 4.7km offshore from the coastline.
- 1.6 I present the following as evidence:
- Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama Tikanga/Values/Principles and intergenerational relationship with Te Ākau Bream Bay
  - The McCallum Bros Ltd resource consent application poses a threat to our relationship with the moana and how we interact with it
  - Our growing club will be directly affected by the proposed sand extraction resource consent
- 1.7 For the reasons outlined in this document, we strongly oppose the sand mining proposal in Te Ākau Bream Bay and we recommend that the consent application be declined.



## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Tēnā koutou katoa, ko Hollie Kereopa tōku ingoa. I have served as the Chair of Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama Incorporated since December 2024, following my role as Deputy Chair when our committee was first established in 2023. Since then, I have witnessed our club grow through the hard mahi, commitment, and collective dedication of our committee, members, hapū, and whānau. We are proud and deeply grateful to paddle on the ancestral waters of Whangārei Terenga Parāoa and Te Ākau, where waka ama continues to strengthen our connection to the moana, to our hapū, and to our whakapapa.
- 2.2 I have grown up in Te Ākau Bream Bay area and I currently reside in One Tree Point. I work within the Marine Research space and have done so for 5+ years in Te Ākau Bream Bay.
- 2.3 Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama is a hapū-led waka ama club based on the southern side of Whangārei Terenga Parāoa and along the coastline of Te Ākau Bream Bay. Our club was established to reconnect our whānau, hapū, and wider community with the moana through waka ama, while strengthening hauora, whakawhanaungatanga, mātauranga Māori, and intergenerational participation. Our members paddle regularly throughout Te Ākau for training, events, wānanga, rangatahi development, and weekly social paddles.



### 3. ABOUT US: TE KAUIKA O PATUHARAKEKE WAKA AMA INCORPORATED

- 3.1 Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama Incorporated was proudly formed in 2023 as a hapū-led waka ama club based on the southern side of Whangārei Terenga Parāoa (Whangārei Harbour) and along the expansive coastline of Te Ākau Bream Bay. Our club was specifically established to reconnect our whānau, local kura, hapū, and the wider community with the moana through the traditional practice of waka ama, while simultaneously strengthening hauora (wellbeing), whakawhanaungatanga (relationships), mātauranga Māori, and intergenerational participation.
- 3.2 Whangārei Terenga Parāoa and Te Ākau Bream Bay are culturally, ecologically, spiritually, and economically significant taonga handed down to the people of Patuharakeke with reverence from our tūpuna. Our local history and whakapapa are intrinsically woven throughout this rohe. The freshwater systems of our inland ngahere flow directly through our ancestral awa, including Takahiwai, Ruakākā, Uretiti, and Waipū, connecting us directly to Te Ākau. As a club, we operate guided by and with respect to Patuharakeke, exercising our sport in alignment with local tikanga.
- 3.3 Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama was founded by a small but dedicated committee with a shared vision of reconnecting our people to the moana through waka ama. As part of establishing our club, we intentionally chose the name *Te Kauika*, which refers to a pod of whales or dolphins moving together in unity, with shared purpose and direction. This name reflects the values that underpin our club: collective strength, kotahitanga, intercollective strength, kotahitanga, intergenerational connection, and a commitment to moving forward together with shared purpose. Much like a kauika navigating the moana in unison, our club was built on the principle that meaningful progress is achieved through collective effort, leadership, and support for one another as whānau, both on and off the water.



#### 4. Ngākau: Core Club Values

4.1 Our operational framework, safety guidelines, and community interactions are underpinned by foundational values that align closely with Waka Ama Aotearoa New Zealand:

- **Manaakitanga:** We actively encourage the practice of reciprocity through the sharing of ourselves and our resources, nurturing all people, and warmly accepting our differences.
- **Whanaungatanga:** We nurture a deep sense of belonging, individual identity, and collective strength through kinship within the waka ama community.
- **Hauora:** We aim to uplift the comprehensive mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing of all our members through connection and activity on the water.
- **Tū Tangata:** We hold ourselves fully accountable for our actions. We practice deep respect for ourselves, others, our resources, and the marine environment. We stand proud in our integrity.
- **Huri Noa & Hononga:** We promote total community inclusiveness and focus heavily on increasing community cohesion by actively encouraging wide participation.



## 5. Waka Ama Growth and Activity in Te Ākau Bream Bay

- 5.1 On a weekly basis, we paddle our waka throughout Te Ākau, often launching from the harbour mouth and paddling offshore, while also regularly using the Ruakākā Awa to depart from the river mouth and paddle into the open bay.
- 5.2 While we are a young club, our presence on the waters of Whangārei Terenga Parāoa has grown rapidly. At our 2024 Annual General Meeting, our group consisted of fewer than 10 members. Today, we have close to 80 registered members. Our membership profile spans every single life stage, ranging from our Juniors/Taitamariki (ages 6–19) and Open adult divisions, through to Masters and Golden Masters (ages 70+). This growth underscores our commitment to fostering a healthy and lifelong connection to Te Ākau for our tamariki through to kaumātua.
- 5.3 To facilitate this engagement, we utilize our permanent home at Te Koutu (Marsden Point) to run a diverse range of active programming directly within the environments facing potential industrial sand extraction:
- **Weekly Social Paddles:** Held every Wednesday evening at Te Koutu, providing open, low-barrier access to the water for community members of all ages and abilities.
  - **Waka Wānanga:** Intensive on-the-water training sessions dedicated to teaching traditional waka mātauranga and passing down maritime heritage.
  - **Educational Partnerships:** We actively facilitate youth pathways and educational programmes on these waters, including hosting the Bream Bay College Year 13 Leadership Camp and the Year 12 Outdoor Education programmes, alongside local sports trusts and high schools.
  - **Competitive Pathways:** Supporting active adult and competitive racing teams across Northland (Te Tai Tokerau). In our recent season, we safely fielded crews in numerous key regional and national events, including our own Patuharakeke Winter Series, the



## Mangawhai Regatta, Hoe Matariki (Parihaka), and the Ngāti Rehia Sprints.

- 5.4 As outlined in our 2025 Annual Chair report that was presented at our 2025 AGM, we are responsible for hosting a wide variety of wānanga that take place in Whangārei Terenga Parāoa and Te Ākau Bream Bay, including (but not limited to): Patuharakeke 10km Winter Series, Rangatahi Have a Go Day, Open Days, Bream Bay College Year 13 Leadership Camp, Bream Bay College Year 12 Outdoor Education, Whangārei Girls High School Netball Team, Hosted Tai Tokerau Māori Women's Hockey Team, Pasifika Waka Ama & Snorkelling Day at Ruakākā Awa, Jamielle Ruka Rangatahi Wānanga, and Steering Workshops.
- 5.5 Our fleet has grown to support this high volume of water activity. Our original 6-man waka, *Hinemoana and Kiwa*, have been on our moana since 2024, with the addition of two Rangatahi (youth) waka being added recently, *Rangiatea 1* and *Rangiatea 2*. These assets ensure that our tamariki and rangatahi have consistent, safe access to equipment to explore and connect with their coastal environment.
- 5.6 A vast majority of our new members are young people, ranging from 10-25 years old. Our Waka Ama club provides purpose and creates a stable foundation for our rangatahi. We believe that we have the unique opportunity to create a lasting impact on rangatahi by connecting them to their moana.
- 5.7 We are fortunate to maintain strong relationships with local kura, including Bream Bay College, Ruakākā Primary, and One Tree Point Primary, where we strive to provide a safe, supportive, and healthy environment for rangatahi to experience and connect with their moana firsthand. Our opposition is not solely based on current use, but on the protection of future access. Our club exists to rebuild and strengthen intergenerational relationships with Te Ākau through waka ama. Decisions that industrialise and degrade this environment risk limiting the ability of future tamariki and rangatahi to safely learn, paddle, and form their own enduring relationship with these ancestral waters.



5.8 Our use of Te Ākau Bream Bay is not confined to the shoreline or sheltered harbour environments. As an active waka ama club, we regularly paddle beyond the harbour mouth and into open coastal waters, including routes that face or traverse the wider marine area proposed for sand extraction. As our club continues to grow, our use of offshore environments will expand further through longer-distance training paddles, safety support operations, interclub events, and rangatahi development opportunities. The proposed extraction area is therefore not a distant or abstract marine space to us; it forms part of the wider coastal environment we actively use, depend on, and intend to continue using for generations to come.

5.9 Waka ama is an ocean-based activity that relies heavily on safe access to coastal waters, environmental predictability, and the confidence of paddlers, whānau, and programme facilitators. The presence of industrial extraction vessels, associated marine traffic, operational activity, and uncertainty surrounding exclusion zones or navigational constraints creates significant concern for our club. Many of our paddlers are tamariki, rangatahi, novice adults, and kaumātua, meaning our safety planning must be conservative and culturally responsive. Any activity that increases marine risk, reduces safe access, or creates uncertainty in our training and programme environments directly impacts our ability to deliver waka ama safely. Even where direct physical exclusion from the extraction site may not occur, the practical effect of industrialising the marine environment is to discourage use, limit programme confidence, and alter how our members interact with their moana.



## 6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama Incorporated is a hapū-led, actively growing waka ama club with a strong and demonstrable relationship with Te Ākau, Whangārei Terenga Parāoa, and the surrounding coastal marine environment.
- 6.2 Although our club is relatively young compared with surrounding waka ama clubs, our consistent and expanding use of these waters through training, rangatahi development, educational partnerships, cultural wānanga, and community events demonstrates a genuine and enduring connection to this moana.
- 6.3. The proposed industrial-scale sand extraction is fundamentally inconsistent with our values, aspirations, and responsibilities as tangata whenua and active marine users. It introduces uncertainty, environmental risk, and industrial pressure into an environment that is central to our cultural practice, wellbeing, and community development. In addition, it significantly restricts our access to our moana.
- 6.4 This proposal creates concerns relating to marine safety, navigational access, environmental degradation, cumulative ecological effects, and the long-term ability of our members, particularly tamariki and rangatahi, to safely access and build relationships with their ancestral waters. As tangata whenua and active users of this coastline, we do not support activities that place commercial extraction ahead of environmental and cultural wellbeing.
- 6.5 The 35-year resource consent for the McCallum Bros Limited in Te Ākau Bream Bay cannot be viewed in isolation. Te Ākau and the wider Whangārei coastal environment already face multiple pressures, including industrial development, shipping activity, dredging, habitat degradation, and cumulative ecological stressors. Introducing a further 35 years of industrial sand extraction adds to this burden and increases uncertainty regarding the long-term resilience of the marine environment our club depends on.



- 6.6 Our opposition reflects both our current use of Te Ākau and our obligation to protect future use. The ability of future generations to paddle, learn, gather, and connect with this moana should not be compromised by long-term commercial extraction.
- 6.7 For the reasons outlined in this document, Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama Incorporated strongly opposes the proposed 35-year resource consent for sand extraction in Te Ākau Bream Bay and respectfully recommends that the Fast-track panel decline the application.