

## Appendix E

Ken Couper, Mayor, and District Council Counsellors

It is a privilege to stand before you today on behalf of the Bream Bay Guardians, and in doing so, to expand on, and endorse Cr Baldwin, Notice of Motion.

Please note that whilst I am speaking on behalf of the Bream Bay Guardians, Dave Milner representing Patuharakeke Te Iwi has agreed that his apology is tabled with our presentation.

There is an overwhelming Bream Bay community opposition to the Fast Track proposal we expect McCallum's to submit to the Environment Protection Agency prior to Christmas.

Whilst the Bream Bay Guardians was established less than a year ago, specifically to collect evidence to oppose the Fast Track sand mining proposal in Te Akau Bream Bay – we have also provided opportunity for a wide range and number of community voices – to be expressed and heard:

- 14,500 people have signed a petition opposing the sand mining - that was presented to the former Whangarei District Council in May of this year
- In a survey prior to the election of the Counsellors sitting here today, 100% of those that are now elected voiced their opposition to the sand mining, as did the Mayors of Whangarei, Kaipara the Far North and Auckland

- And in a recent Bream Bay survey facilitated by an independent researcher – promoted through social media, news paper advertising and through a letter box drop – we have been able to ascertain that 95% of all respondents oppose the proposed sand mining. A full report of those voices will be made available to you when it is completed. It is clear however, that there is a close alignment with the evidence the Bream Bay Guardians have collected and collated.

Moving on to the evidence that the Guardians have gathered with the assistance and support of well-respected Iwi, lawyers, marine scientists, geomorphologists, engineers, and economists.....we note that:

### **Historically**

- McCallum’s previous history with respect to sand mining at Pakiri, has been well documented by the Environment Court, and that documentation provides evidence of **a company that breached their consent multiple times.** (Importantly, the Environment Court have ordered McCallum’s to pay legal costs exceeding \$450,000). This is a risk to any marine sand mining in Northland.

### **McCallum’s**

- Claim that **there is a sand crisis in Auckland.** On the contrary, a 2025 Beca report commissioned by the Guardians, and the Guardians own consultation in

Northland, confirms supply exceeds demand in both Auckland and Northland. Also noted is that the growing supply of manufactured sand now meets Auckland's full demand – cleanly, locally and sustainably. Yes Counsellors, we do continue to need sand for infrastructure and development – but no, we do not need to access marine sand from Bream Bay to meet that demand.

- Claim that their sand mining proposal will provide **economic benefits** – a key requirement for Fast Track projects. A critique carried out by Hayden Green on Mc Callum's Economic justification is critical of that assessment. Green notes that: "The analysis is opaque, non-replicable, and riddled with errors and omissions – many of which substantially overstate the claimed economic benefits while understating or ignoring that proposal's cost". There are no new jobs or investment, or proven benefit to Northland. Only Mc Callum's profit.

**The international and national research related to marine sand mining demonstrates that in Bream Bay it will:**

- Strip the seabed, and destroy benthic life, including Stony Coral, shellfish, juvenile scallops, and the worm beds that are an important food source for fish
- Threaten the habitat and presence of Bream Bay endemic sea mammals and sea birds

- Threaten Bream Bay business, tourism and reputation. Bream Bay is known as one of the country most pristine coastlines – sand mining will undermine its image as a clean, unspoiled destination, deterring visitors and harming local hospitality and tourism.

**And, finally, we know that:**

- Channel Infrastructure has consent to extract similar quantities of marine sand from the same area. Two such operations in Bream Bay will double the damage.

Counsellors, there is much more that we could say to support Cr Baldwin Notice of Motion, but time is of the essence in this presentation. There is further information in the briefing paper that we will leave for you. Beyond that, we will always be available to meet and discuss opportunities and challenges that come up through the Fast Track process.

In conclusion then, we ask that the District Council:

- Support Cr Baldwin Notice of Motion
- Thoroughly analyse McCallum final application
- Liaise and continue to link with the Northland Regional Council, Bream Bay Iwi, and the Bream Bay Guardians
- Note McCallum’s previous history and breaches of consent
- Note that there is no sand shortage in Auckland or Northland

- Note there are no new jobs or investment, or proven benefit to Northland. Only McCallum's profit.
- Protect Te Akau Bream Bay ecology, sea floor, marine life and seabirds, waters, and coast
- Ensure that whilst the Channel Infrastructure consent remains in place, there no other seabed disturbances permitted.

Thank you for your time.