

**Patuharakeke Mana Whenua
Bream Bay Sand Extraction Project
FTAA-2511-1150**

INTRODUCTION

Patuharakeke Mana Whenua respectfully provide the following comments regarding the proposed Bream Bay Sand Extraction Project by McCallum Bros Limited.

Our comments are grounded in our lived and intergenerational relationship with Te Ākau Bream Bay and the surrounding moana. We provide these comments as kaitiaki who hold customary relationships and responsibilities connected to these waters and surrounding environments.

WHAKAPAPA AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE MOANA

Ko Manaia te Maunga,
Ko Te Rerenga Parāoa te Moana,
Ko Takahiwai te Marae,
Ko Rangiora te Whare Tupuna,
Ko Patuharakeke te Iwi.

Our people have lived beside, gathered from, travelled across and protected these waters for generations. The moana is not simply a resource to us. It is part of our whakapapa, identity, tikanga and way of life. The health of the moana directly affects the health and wellbeing of our people, our customary practices and our ability to provide for future generations.

Our whānau have been raised on kaimoana and continue to pass down this way of life through the teaching of mahi kai, fishing and diving practices to younger generations, just as our tupuna did before us.

Over many years our people have witnessed ongoing environmental decline within the moana. We have observed changes to customary gathering areas and reductions in species including crabs, kōura, pipi, tuatua, cockles and scallops.

Many of these species are filter feeders and are particularly vulnerable to sediment disturbance and wider ecological degradation within the marine environment.

The concerns we raise are grounded in lived experience, customary practice, intergenerational observation and ongoing relationship with these waters.

OBSERVED EFFECTS ON THE MOANA

The experiences and concerns described throughout these comments are not isolated observations. They reflect concerns held by many within our whānau and wider community who have observed changes within the moana environment over long periods of time.

We acknowledge that we are not marine biologists or technical experts. However, our knowledge comes from lived experience, customary practice, intergenerational observation and ongoing relationship with these waters. We know these areas through harvesting, diving, fishing, travelling and protecting them across many decades.

Our concerns include the potential effects of seabed disturbance, sediment movement, habitat destruction, impacts on kaimoana species, degradation of customary gathering areas and cumulative environmental effects on the wider marine ecosystem.

We are particularly concerned about irreversible impacts on species and habitats that sustain both marine life and customary food gathering practices. We are also concerned about the uncertainty surrounding the long-term effects of extraction activities on the health and resilience of the moana environment.

The proposed extraction area may appear separate on maps and technical reports, however the moana is a connected living environment. Effects occurring within one area may extend well beyond the immediate extraction site through currents, sediment dispersal and ecosystem disruption.

We also note that our concerns are supported by visual observations and photographic evidence gathered by our people over time. Supporting photographs of the ocean floor and surrounding marine environment are attached as part of these comments to assist the Panel in understanding the nature of the environment potentially affected by this proposal.

CULTURAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACTS

The health of the moana is directly connected to our ability to maintain tikanga, customary practices and intergenerational knowledge transfer. If the moana is degraded, future generations may lose the opportunity to experience and inherit the same relationship with these waters that our tupuna passed down to us.

Our concerns are not solely environmental. They are also cultural, spiritual and intergenerational. The continued degradation of the moana threatens the ability of future generations to maintain their connection to customary gathering practices, mātauranga and whakapapa relationships connected to Te Ākau Bream Bay.

For our people, the loss of healthy moana environments is not simply the loss of a resource. It is the loss of inherited knowledge, lived practice and cultural continuity that has been sustained across generations.

POSITION OF PATUHARA KEKE MANA WHENUA

Our primary position is that the application should be declined.

We consider that the risks to the moana environment, kaimoana species, customary practices and future generations are too significant and uncertain to justify approval of the proposed sand mining activities.

CONCLUSION

Our opposition to this proposal is grounded in our responsibility as kaitiaki to protect the moana for future generations. We cannot support activities that may further degrade the health and wellbeing of Te Ākau Bream Bay and the wider marine environment.

Since 2025 our hapū, whānau, kaitiaki and wider community have stood together in strong opposition to this proposal. Public protest actions held at Ruakākā Beach have demonstrated the unity of the people in protecting our coastline, moana and taonga for future generations.

Environmental reports and public concerns have continued to raise serious issues regarding the destructive effects of sand mining on the marine ecosystem, seabed environment, kaimoana, coastal erosion and marine life.

Together we stand in Whānau Kotahitanga to oppose the proposed sand mining activities in Te Ākau Bream Bay.

Nā mātou

Josephine Te Aroha Te Pirihi

Patuharakeke Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Roopu

26 May 2026