

## Appendix H - Survey about the proposal by McCallums to mine sand in Bream Bay

Sample of comments people made in the survey that MIGHT make suitable sound-bites to be publicised. The comments are reasonably indicative of all responses to the McCallum proposal.

These comments happen to come mostly from the list of comments in the “Epilogue” to the survey. The last extensive comment is included to make sure a specifically Māori perspective is included.

Comments that may be most useful to publicise have been highlighted, although others on the BBGS team may be better placed to make judgements about media impact: that’s why the fuller list of comments is also included.

David Fougere, May 2026.

Sand mining destroys habitats of known and unknown organisms.
It's not their sand, so why do they get to just 'have it' when it's going to RUIN BREAM BAY... McBros don't stick to the rules which we already know - so, why would they adhere to them here? (If anyone IS going to do it, certainly NOT THESE ALREADY NOTED, CRIMINALS) ... Who wants to live in a dying wasteland? ... Mental health - no surf, no swim, no Lil nippers @ the surf clubs, no water-sports, no fishing/foraging/enjoyment of the sea in all its ways - what’s the cost of mental health - quite obviously, health itself will take a big dive in the area too: Who is paying for all of this? ... the taxpayer??? Our people and their mokopuna. That's who... This lot are ALL about money. There are NO DECENT, FAIR, LOGICAL REASONS for the sand mining in BREAM BAY to go ahead.
Bream Bay has been our home with our four children for 45 years. It is a jewel in our lives. It is unfathomable to consider any value at all in this. Our environment is already crying out. Nature is wreaking havoc everywhere and with increasing regularity. When is enough, enough? People that choose to live in this area do so because they value its beauty. We choose not to live in a city. We have had to make compromises for in order to live in a healthy environment. Transport costs, education, employment opportunities, banking and post facilities etc. If Auckland wants sand, take sand from the many beaches close by. But then who wants their waterfront properties in Piha, Mission Bay, Northcote Point, Devonport, Orewa, Browns Bay ....., ruined by sand mining? Don’t steal from us because that is exactly what this is about.
Bream Bay is a 'closed' bay system. The sand that exists came from the volcanoes of the North Island via a river flowing to the Firth of Thames, and will not be replaced.
Disgraceful proposal, short term gain for a private firm at the expense of a beautiful natural treasure.
Economic case does not stack up
Fast track is a breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and is undemocratic.
Comprehensive studies show NZ does not require more Sandmining. McCallum brothers are untrustworthy. They breached their permit off Pakiri multiple times and were taken to court. We do not want such a firm operating in Northland. Environment studies show Sandmining will damage the environment and may have long-term effects on the coastline. Lastly there is no employment or financial benefit to Northland.

<p>Fast tracking is NOT a solution that has best interests of anybody but those making profit from our local environment. Fast tracking allows/promotes business to exploit people and the environment for their profit. There is no upside to our local community or the environment.</p>
<p>I am opposed to the seabed mining and the more I read about it the more wrong it seems. New alternatives are available. I was also shocked to read that the Pakiri mining was not properly monitored by Auckland council. Corporate greed once again</p>
<p>I grew up in Bream Bay and have fond memories of collecting cockles etc with my grandad on the sand bars there. Let nature be.</p>
<p>If they continue to mine our seabeds these will have lasting negative effects on our mokopuna. NO TO SEABED MINING!</p>
<p>I'm flabbergasted that seabed sand mining is even being considered for this cherished gem of a bay. I walk the beach throughout the year and observe the constant changes taking place to sand levels and distribution. This in turn affects the dunes and the wildlife inland. The dunes seem to repair themselves after the numerous major storms we have experienced lately. This is a result of the combined effects of free sea bed sand, tides and winds. Remove the sand and there is no material to rebuild the dunes with. No dunes = no natural barrier = flooding</p>
<p>It is probably more in size than Mt Manaia. This is going to ruin the undersea environment and ultimately draw sand from surrounding seabeds and beaches already being compromised by climate change. We have to find other solutions than concrete such as ash.</p>
<p>It's not necessary to ruin this bay, there are other options for sand. I am worried the beach will become unsafe for swimming and that the sand dunes will be lessened leading to problems with the houses along the beach. It's not fair to take something and give nothing.</p>
<p>sand is disappearing from my area as it is</p>
<p>Shane jones is not correct about the sea bed in question being a desert. It will be after dredging. Note we can't scallop dredge, so why dredge for sand.</p>
<p>The adverse environmental effects far outweigh the need for private profit from the pillaging our earth - this is our land, our sea - it deserves respect and care, we cannot be letting it be scarred and gouged by anyone under our watch, the adverse effects to our world will affect us all and it is our job to provide care to the earth that sustains us.</p>
<p>The bay marine environment is a significant part of this community in terms of why we live here, economy, tourism, ongoing resource for kai Moana and the undeniable beauty which replenishes the spiritual aspect of our lives.</p>
<p>The environment and the wishes of residents must be prioritised well ahead of private profiteering.</p>
<p>The risk to the environment and sea life is too high. There is enough sand from other resources available for this not to be necessary. Public resource for private profit is NOT ok.</p>
<p>The sand is a free good for the community and visitors to enjoy not for one company to take for a profit. The long-term effects of sand mining on the environment have been documented from the Pakiri Beach experience. Bream Bay has a growing population and the loss of sand from dunes and the beaches over time from weather events and mining combined could be catastrophic to the settlements near the sea.</p>
<p>There is limited economic justification for the project. The current justification seems to be heavily aligned to the developers. Alternative economic analysis is required. I do not trust the fast track process which is oriented to government support for big busines and does not seem to provide for community or environmental concerns.</p>
<p>This area is heavily used by recreational fisherman and is a beautiful beach. Having a sand mining operation will have detrimental effects in the region particularly as cruise ships are coming into the port. This look is certainly not positive to overseas passengers nor the local community.</p>
<p>This has already been disallowed by the environment court just down the coast , why is it even being considered here???</p>

This National government is guilty of buttering the bread of the rich - at the expense of the environment, and the social cohesion of our society. 'Fast-track' activities such as the one discussed here are just one presentation of this bias.

This proposal flies in the face of all the evidence about the potential harm that will occur across the seafloor area of Bream Bay. The damage will not be repairable and will add pressure to the already increasing threats from climate change, and existing degradation of the wider adjacent Hauraki Gulf area and the port of Whangarei.

The eco system around the entrance to the harbour is already compromised. Sandmining on this scale would destroy the environment completely. It is totally unacceptable.

As nga kaitiaki (guardians/caretakers) of te taiao (the environment/the earth) Patuharekeke take seriously any intentions to plunder the resources of the earth and the seas with disregard to the long term effects on the environment and the animal and human population of our area. The harmful effects of sand dredging in coasts south of our area have given us no hope to believe our coastal area and population won't be negatively impacted by McCallum Bros plans. We want to maintain bird life and fish life and whanau recreational activities on our pristine shores. Industry in the Whangarei Harbour has drastically impacted our environment and ability to gather food that has historically been part of our lifestyle and tradition. It is now an obligation placed on us to protect what is left to us. Handing McCallum Bros carte blanche to devastate our shores and environment is a travesty and harmful to te taiao and should be protected by our government and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Choose people and our close relatives - the sea, the fish and sea and bird life that depend on us for their protection. Choose te taiao over destruction and the accumulation of wealth by business interests. Choose life.

If you wanted to present “balance” you could potentially use these comments from those in favour of the proposal. I can’t image that, and these answers seem trite – but here you go!:

I feel there is so much sand out there that it will make no difference.

Sand is required to sustain the growth & development in the Auckland / Northland regions. There is not enough sand currently available in the North at normal demand levels.

Sand is removed and mined along the Gold Coast of Australia amongst marine mammals and no issues have been identified.