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Whangarei District Council and Northland Regional Council
c/- Alissa Sluys
Consents and Hearings Manager
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By email: alissas@nrc.govt.nz

07 November 2023

Re: Northport application

UPDATE TO POSITION OF TE ARAROA NORTHLAND TRUST IN RELATION TO NORTHPORT EXPANSION

Te Araroa Northland Trust (TANT) made a previous submission to the resource consent process dated and also made a verbal submission at the hearings on 13 October 2023.

TANT has continued to monitor the consent process and to review other submissions and additional information and documentation as it has become available, and have continued to review and assess our position.

We would now like to make an additional and supplementary submission as follows:

1. While there is planned to be a new water taxi jetty or pontoon on the new eastern side of the expanded port facility, we are concerned at the tight proximity of the port exclusion zone to the refinery wharf where the new jetty/pontoon is to be located. Given inevitable shipping and associated (eg tug) traffic in that area, it appears there is a likelihood that operation of the water taxi would be restricted and therefore restrict or limit the transfer of Te Araroa walkers across the harbour.
2. Our original submission requested:

“Specific provision needs to be made within the resource consent to ensure the continuity of Te Araroa Trail during and after construction, and the safety of those using it. This could include development of an alternative route from Marsden Marina to Ruakaka Beach”

It is now our view that this alternative route from Marsden Marina to Ruakaka Beach, likely following a route along Marsden Bay Drive and Rama Road, should be considered as a long term or permanent route for Te Araroa.

Such a route will also mitigate the impact on the existing TA route of possible ongoing erosion to the northeast portion of Marsden Point Beach.

3. TANT therefore request that the consent be subject to Northport providing this permanent new route for Te Araroa.

Such a link would also benefit the wider community, such as the residents of one Tree Point, Marsden Point and Ruakaka who would have an enhanced walking (and perhaps cycling) route to connect their communities.

This request is in line with evidence in the Joint Witness Statement provided by Craig Jones on 21 September 2023 and the addendum dated 25 September 2023.

4. Our initial assessment is that this new route would require:
 - a. A permanent designated access area at Marsden Marina for the water taxi.
 - b. Formation of a safe surfaced walking pathway between Marsden Marina and the southern area of Marsden Point Beach – likely along Marsden Bay Drive and Rama Road but alternatives may be considered.
 - c. Safe road crossings as necessary.
 - d. Upgraded trail to connect the southeast end of Rama Road to the beach.
 - e. Associated track hardware such as steps, handrails, ramps as may be required.
 - f. Signage to indicate the new route as necessary.

Thank you for accepting this supplementary submission.



Shane Knowler
Chair – Te Araroa Northland Trust