

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991(RMA)

AND

**IN THE MATTER Resource Consent Applications by Northport Ltd –
Port Expansion Project at Marsden Point.**

Application Numbers:

Whangarei District Council: LU2200107

Northland Regional Council: APP.040976.01.01

JOINT WITNESS STATEMENT (JWS) IN RELATION TO:

LANDSCAPE & PLANNING

21 September 2023

Expert Conferencing Held on: 21 September 2023

Venue: Online

Independent Facilitator: Marlene Oliver

Admin Support: Emma Cairncross

1 Attendance:

1.1 The list of participants is included in the schedule at the end of this Statement.

2 Basis of Attendance and Environment Court Practice Note 2023

2.1 All participants agree to the following:

- (a) The Environment Court Practice Note 2023 provides relevant guidance and protocols for the expert conferencing session;
- (b) They will comply with the relevant provisions of the Environment Court Practice Note 2023;
- (c) They will make themselves available to appear before the Panel;
- (d) This statement is to be filed with the Panel and posted on the Council's website.

3 Matters considered at Conferencing – Agenda and Outcomes

3.1 Height and scale of proposed STS cranes and potential container stacks in relation to mapped ONLs

Area of disagreement

Mike Farrow considers that the effects of the STS cranes and container stacks (maximum height 30 metres) on the experiential values of Motukaroro Island and Mount Aubrey portion of the ONL (Bream Head manaia sequence) would be more than minor.

Stephen Brown identifies the contrasting nature of the two coastlines of Whangārei Harbour with the highly significant volcanic coastline of Whangārei Heads contrasting very markedly with the industrialised lowland and spit of Marsden Point. He considers that the port expansion will increase the contrast, and to a degree, tension between the two halves, but he does not consider that the effects generated by this proposal would change the fundamental nature of the harbour landscape or the values of its ONLs.

Mike Farrow and Stephen Brown confirmed they have read Patuharakeke Iwi Trust Board’s evidence and consider that it is most appropriate for Patuharakeke Iwi Trust Board to express their values and concerns in relation to the proposal.

3.2 Effects on Marsden Point Beach

Mike Farrow and Stephen Brown consider that the landscape related effects of the loss of most of the bay, beachfront, dune system, and coastal vegetation will be significant and will only be partly mitigated/offset by the proposed reduced recreation reserve. The off-site mitigation opportunities identified in the Recreation JWS dated 21 September 2023 are supported.

4 PARTICIPANTS TO JOINT WITNESS STATEMENT

4.1 The participants to this Joint Witness Statement, as listed below, confirm that:

- (a) They agree that the outcome(s) of the expert conferencing are as recorded in this statement; and
- (b) They have read the Environment Court’s Practice Note 2023 and agree to comply with it; and
- (c) The matters addressed in this statement are within their area of expertise; and
- (d) As this session was held online, in the interests of efficiency, it was agreed that each expert would verbally confirm their position in relation to this para 4.1 to the Independent Facilitator and the other experts and this is recorded in the schedule below.

Confirmed online: 21 September 2023

EXPERT’S NAME & EXPERTISE	PARTY	EXPERT’S CONFIRMATION REFER PARA 4.1
Stacey Sharp – Reporting Officer (Planner)	Whangārei District Council	Yes

Mike Farrow – Landscape Specialist	Whangārei District Council	Yes
Blair Masefield – Reporting Officer (Planner)	Northland Regional Council	Yes
Brett Hood – Planner	Northport	Yes
Stephen Brown – Landscape Specialist	Northport	Yes
Christine Niblock – Planner and Landscape Architect	Whangārei District Council Parks	Yes