

Catherine Ongko

From: Stephen West
Sent: Friday, 22 March 2024 3:01 pm
To: Simon Beale (simon@bealeconsultants.co.nz); Frank O'Boyle
Subject: Request for further information on resource consent application - South Port NZ dredging at Syncrolift - APP-20242149

Tēnā kōrua Simon and Frank

Thank you for applying on behalf of South Port NZ Ltd for a resource consent to dredge accumulated sediment from the seafloor at the Syncrolift site at Bluff Harbour, and to discharge to sediment into Bluff Harbour. The application has been formally received. However I will need further information from you before your application can progress.

This email outlines the information I am requesting, the reasons for the request, your options and how they affect you. **Please read the points below carefully or have someone explain them to you.**

The following information is requested under Section 92(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991. I will need the information requested below to understand your proposal before I can make a recommendation on notification.

Please provide:

1. Assessment of the effects of the change in colour and clarity in the waters of Bluff Harbour on amenity values and natural character, and whether any plume of sediment will be conspicuous from the shore. I am requesting this because the assessment was primarily focused on the ecological effects of the discharge on water quality. But potentially there will be a conspicuous plume that impacts on other values in and around the harbour. If that is considered in the application already, please direct me to the correct part of the application.
2. Assessment of whether the discharge activity will impact on:
 - (a) existing water takes that draw from Bluff Harbour
 - (b) marine farms in Bluff Harbour
 - (c) investigations or monitoring associated with the nearby aluminium smelter, particularly once the plume passes out of the harbour and around the Tiwai Point Open Coast.
 - (d) any planned or proposed recreational activities in or adjacent to the harbour that may be impacted by a visible sediment plume or reduced water clarity in the harbour.

My concern is that the proposed consultation does not reflect the scale of the activity nor identify all those that may be adversely affected, or at least potentially have cause for concern. At this stage I believe that there is potentially a special circumstance for notification of the application because I don't believe that I can adequately determine everyone that may be adversely affected, in part because so few people have been consulted.

3. Any feedback received about the application from Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and Te Ao Marama Inc.
4. Any feedback received about the application, in particular the effects of the discharge, from Tangata Tiaki gazetted under the South Island Customary Fishing Regulations 1998. I am requesting this information because Policy 1 of Section 3.6.2 of Te Tangi a Tauira requires consultation with the gazette Tangata Tiaki under the customary fishing regulations. I note the assessment in the application indicates that the Mataitai Reserve will be unaffected, and that the consultation has been limited to Te Ao Marama Inc and Department of Conservation, but it may be beneficial to check about effects on customary fishing.
5. Any feedback received about the application from the Department of Conservation.

You must, by **16 April 2024** either:

- Provide the information, or
- Agree to provide the information, or
- Refuse to provide the information.

Please consider what to do carefully. Your decision is important because:

- If you provide the information we will proceed with processing your application.
- If you agree to provide the information we will set a reasonable timeframe for you to provide the information by.
- If you refuse, or do not provide the information before the agreed timeframe we must publicly notify the application. Public notification means the public may make submissions on the application and there may be a hearing to determine it. Additional payments are required for notified applications.
- We can decline the application if we have insufficient information to grant it.

The time taken between this email and our receipt of the information will not be included in our total processing timeframes for the application.

Please note: The information received in response to this request forms part of your application. Please ensure you provide the relevant request and response information to all parties whom you have been consulting with or seeking approval from.

Please contact me if you have any questions. I can be contacted by phone at Environment Southland Monday-Friday 8.00–4.30 on 0800 76 88 45 or this email address. Otherwise, if you need more information:

- go to [es.govt.nz/environment/consents](https://environment.govt.nz/environment/consents) or
- go to <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/applying-for-a-resource-consent/>

Ngā mihi

Stephen West
Principal Consents Officer

