

Submission in support of the resource consent application to allow Port Otago Ltd's next generation project to proceed

Ports are vital to the well being of our society. We are a trading nation and have been since people arrived in this land. If we do not trade internationally our society will be so much the poorer. I wonder if people realize how much poorer. We would be without most of the imported good things we rely on today and without exports we would not be able to pay for them. I think a survival type existence at best.

Modern ports need to respond to the needs of their customers who are shipping companies, exporters and importers. They need to do this in an efficient, safe, environmentally sustaining & cost effective way. They are subject to competition from other ports. The port users are I believe demanding greater levels of efficiency and world trends show that larger ships will deliver some of these efficiencies. They will arrive on our coast and we must be ready to service them or our port will die.

If larger ships call at only one or two ports in this country then we will all suffer as it will bottle neck our imports & exports. We do not have the infrastructure to cope with such a constriction in our logistics system. The whole country will suffer. Logistic efficiency will go down, costs & carbon emissions will go up.

On a local level if port activity declines it will follow a path traveled before. The only difference will be the perceived effect area will be wider than in previous dips in the port activity cycle. Job losses in the port are magnified by co dependent losses in the city, province, island & country. Surely I do not have to explain the economic effects of job loss to intelligent people.

Loss of a local port increases the distance of travel to and from destinations for exports & imports with the corresponding increases in expense and carbon emission.

I believe transport of cargo by ship is the most efficient form of long distance transport. Not allowing this development of our port will put barriers in the path of port users. The inevitable consequence will be:

- ✓ Job losses
- ✓ Increased costs to importers & exporters
- ✓ Increased costs to society of goods
- ✓ Population loss
- ✓ Waste of existing infrastructure

- ✓ Increased local body rates caused by lower payments to the ORC & less rate payers
- ✓ A less efficient national logistics system which will be a major cost to the country along with more carbon emissions

This all adds up to putting us on the road to a third world type economy

Personally and perhaps selfishly I & my family have much invested in this port, town & province. Collectively our provenance goes back to both original Maori & early European occupation. Five generations on my father's side have worked in the port at port activities. Four of my immediate family are employed by the Port Company. Any downturn in port activity will have a direct affect on my family. So I will work to promote the port and make no excuse for doing so but do not assume my motives are entirely for the protection of my family alone. There are other people with families, employed by POL which would be similarly affected. And as I have tried to demonstrate a downturn will have a negative domino effect on families in the town and city.

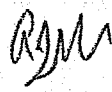
As a person involved in the operation of the port in the area actually moving containers on & off ships I see a particular need for the Multi Purpose Wharf extension. Every week I see the problems caused by the limited length of the Multi Purpose Wharf which will be magnified by larger ships calling. So I support in particular the extension. The public will particularly benefit from the fishing wharf with some access to close viewing of ships & ship operations while remaining in a safe area.

The effects on the harbour itself appear to me to be minor especially when compared to past dredging. I believe adverse environmental effects if any will be temporary at worst and the harbour will stabilize.

Any increase in the disposal of dredged material in the same areas as used at present does concern me however. I believe all material should be disposed of at site AO or at an even greater depth. If one views these matters on a geological timescale all of the dredged material will inevitably be deposited off shore

Therefore I ask the authority to approve the whole application with the condition that all dredged material be dumped at AO

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