

In my submission of support of 5 August 2010 on behalf of the Harington Point Community Society I explained that we were initially concerned at the effect the proposed works may have on:

the shoreline
tidal movements
recreational fishing (including shellfish)
and wildlife (mammals and birds)

but after attending several meetings and listening to and reading the detailed and well researched findings of expert consultants/scientists the Society concluded that its concerns were unfounded.

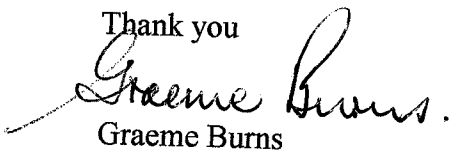
The Society accepts there will be some disturbance and disruption to existing conditions and life but this we understand will be relatively minor and temporary with no lasting detrimental effect.

If a major natural disaster occurred such as an earthquake, tsunami or a flood as has recently happened elsewhere then it could have a lasting detrimental effect on the environment; but this is not the case regarding these proposed works to accommodate the Next Generation container vessels.

Port Otago Limited organized several meetings, the Project Consultancy Group (PCG), which were well publicised and open to any interested person or group; many did attend. I made the point at one of the last meetings and again now that we, the various individuals/groups or stakeholders in PCG, each having our own particular item(s) of issue, should really look at the project in its entirety to gauge the benefit or detriment to the Region rather than simply as it affects ourselves as individuals of groups. Furthermore I understand that the motto of the former Otago Harbour Board was "By Ships We Live"; if these larger container vessels are able to visit Port Chalmers then the community and district will prosper, and if not then we may see a progressive decline in prosperity.

Overall the planned dredging and disposal has in the view of the Society been thoroughly investigated, openly discussed with the stakeholding community and we believe is a positive and essential major step for the future.

Thank you


Graeme Burns