

IN THE MATTER of the Resource
Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by Port
Otago for resource
consents to implement
Project Next Generation.

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF SIMON GILMOUR

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 My name is Simon Gilmour.
- 1.2 I am the Executive Officer for the Otago Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association [CRA7] ('**Lobster Association**').
- 1.3 The Lobster Association represents the interests of both CRA7 fisherman and Quota Share owners.
- 1.4 I speak today to our submission in support of Port Otago Ltd's application to Dredge the shipping channel and Dump the Spoil at site AO. We support the consent with strong reservation. Our submission requested the following outcomes:
- a) Application be conditioned to ensure that dumping of fine silts at site AO doesn't occur during weather conditions which will drive spoil plume into inshore areas, particularly macrocystis beds along the Karitane coast and North;*
 - b) No fine silts to be deposited in the existing consented dump sites;*
 - c) consideration of alternative disposal site for silts and clays at the head of the harbour be investigated.*
- 1.5 We consider the disposal of 2.3million m³ of fine silts and clays within the spoil will damage fisheries habitat and impact long term on sustainable catch for Commercial, Recreational and Customary Fishers. This still remains a concern to the Lobster Association as the Proposal still seeks to dispose of this material at disposal site AO.
- 1.6 We request the commissioners direct Port Otago Ltd to investigate the viability of sequestering the fine silts and clays from the 2nd and 3rd phases of the dredging program into Islands and intertidal sand flats in

the upper Otago Harbour. I have asked Peter Hayden of the Upper Harbour Restoration Group, of which I am a member, to present an outline of the group's proposal to build bird and fisheries habitat in the upper Harbour.

- 1.7 The degradation of Habitat in the CRA7 fishery has had a dramatic impact on the size of the commercial catch. The Southland current is the life blood of the CRA7 fishery and without settlement habitat we have no fishery. In addressing the Lobster Associations concerns, I have appended a paper prepared by retired Fisheries Scientist Robert Street to provide historical, habitat and sea current detail to our submission. I am happy to read this out should the Panel require.
- 1.8 An important point that I would like to make in closing is that 7.2 million m3 of spoil doesn't disappear from fisheries habitat.
- 1.9 Thank you for your attention and I am happy to answer any questions the Panel may have.

Mr Simon Gilomour
18th April 2011