

Mareta Marsters-Grubner, 111846

Submission points *highlighted & expanded*

Introduction... My role in our community - as an individual & independent advocate

1. Significance of the stranded Orca Whale event on Patea coastline - March 2016 - collective unity of Patea community to protect marine life on coastal beach – There is concern that the offshore activity may impact negatively onshore for marine life making their way to the Patea coastline.
2. I saw a community drenched in unification that is immeasurable and it concerns me that our community wellbeing is at stake.
3. Collective, as well as individual, Emotional Distress & depression may be the result for many people in our town if the seabed mining goes ahead. Mental health is a real concern that can be measured through the public health system.
4. In my written submission I spoke about being a swimmer and would like to expand on that - As a swimmer, I'm concerned seabed mining may affect recreational**, cultural, spiritual, mental*, physical, visual* & social well-being
5. and here begs the question about how much plume or sediment is considered detrimental to one's health and wellbeing. How will that be monitored IF seabed mining is granted? What measures would be put in place to ensure that the ocean is safe to swim in, at Patea? Would an independent agency monitor this? How or who would they report to?
6. I'm concerned that there is not enough evidence that proves that 35years worth of alleged iron sand mining is safe for marine life & for swimmers. What guarantees are there, if any?
7. As I mentioned in my submission that there was a possible breach, "in the spirit of the Treaty of Waitangi, Article 2, as we strive to protect the resources of our Taonga" -
8. This is where Patea as a whole community pulled together - as I outlined in my submission - I want to confirm that I was a witness to see (during the stranding of the Orca Whale event March 2016) the *collective unity of all iwi* & their hapu, including citizens, men,

women & children, in Patea to protect the fish, marine life, the ocean floor, seabed, & coastline.

9. As a citizen in Patea, I am concerned that the effects of seabed mining will affect our ability (& responsibility) to protect marine life, such as the Whale (in the 'Whale event' that I spoke of in my submission) and it's rite of passage through our waters.

10. How will the EPA ensure that the community of Patea is respected in the way we try to protect our national treasures in our oceans?

11. I cannot see how this is possible unless the application for a permit to mine & process iron sand for the next 35 years is declined.

*mental well-being - visual - clarity of water = happiness

** interaction with other swimmers/surfers = healthy community spirit

The possibility of 35 years of sea-bed mining to remove iron from our sand equates to community emotional distress.

What happens off-shore may affect what happens on-shore and have a detrimental impact on our environment, tourism & our community well-being.

If the DMC grants the application to sand mine for ore: would there be a trial phase?

These are just some of the questions that the DMC need to ask themselves in the quest to come to a decision that will satisfy whether or not the activity of seabed mining is good for the community of Patea, in the short-term & long-term.

Decision - say NO to seabed mining.