

Summary of Expert Evidence of Dr David Thompson
on behalf of
Trans Tasman Resources Limited

8 February 2017

Seabirds and Shorebirds

Seabirds and Shorebirds of the STB

- New Zealand great seabird diversity with ~162 taxa recorded.
- Around 45 taxa occur within the STB.
 - 10 classified as 'threatened'
 - 24 classified 'at risk'
- Around 15 shorebird taxa occur regularly along the coast of the STB
 - 5 classified as 'threatened'
 - 5 classified as 'at risk'



Potential Effects on Seabirds and Shorebirds

- Physical displacement from mining site.
- Operational noise – displacement.
- Sediment plume – increased turbidity, reduced foraging efficiency for visual foragers.

For seabirds – these potential effects negligible due to high mobility and large ranges.

Potential Effects on Seabirds and Shorebirds

- Vessel strike – attraction to artificial nocturnal lighting.
 - For seabirds – standard and comprehensive mitigation measures in the Seabird Effects Mitigation and Management Plan (SEMMP).
- Oil spill – potential to affect seabirds and shorebirds.
 - Spill Contingency and Management Plan (SCMP) to minimise effects as far as practicable.

Seabird Expert Conferencing

- Seabird occurrence with the STB.
 - Broad agreement.
- Sediment and artificial light.
 - Disagreed on whether sediment effect would be adverse.
 - Agreed on artificial light as potential effect.
- Monitoring.
 - Disagreed on scale of monitoring.

Summary

- Potential effects associated with sediment, noise, oil spills, light
- Effects mitigated through:
 - High mobility and large ranges of birds
 - The SEMMP and SCMP include measures and protocols to effectively mitigate against some of these potential effects
- **Overall negligible effect on seabirds and shorebirds**, primarily because seabirds are mobile with large ranges relative to affected area.