

Tamarind development drilling applications

Submission Reference no: 156

Oil Free Wellington (Michelle Ducat)

Submitter Type: Organisation

Source: Email

Overall Notes:

Clause

Do you have the authority to make this submission on behalf of the person named on this form?

Position

Yes

Notes

Ae - Yes

Clause

Do you intend to have a spokesperson who will act on your behalf (e.g. a lawyer or professional advisor)?

Position

No

Notes

Kao - No

Clause

Do you wish to speak to your submission at the hearing?

Position

Yes I/we wish to speak to my/our submission at the hearing

Notes

Ae - Yes

Clause

If you wish to speak at the hearing, please select all that apply:

Position

If others make a similar submission I/we would consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing

Notes

If others make a similar submission I would consider presenting a a joint case with them at the hearing.

Clause

Do you wish to receive regular updates from the EPA about the progress of this application?

Position

Yes I/we wish to receive all communications relating to this application.

Notes

Ae - Yes

Clause

What decision do you want the Board to make and why? Provide reasons in the box below.

Position

Refuse

Notes

Decline Further exploration and drilling for fossil fuels is culturally, socially, environmentally and economically irresponsible. The risks from cumulative impacts on threatened marine mammals are unacceptable - the assessment is grossly inadequate. The effects of undisclosed harmful chemicals to be discharged at sea cannot possibly be assessed. Assessing related applications separately lacks transparency and does not allow overall assessment of cumulative impacts or integrated management of effects - the EEZ-CS Act s44 calls for joint processing and decision making on related applications. A bond must be required to

ensure that a decommissioning plan is put in place as per international obligations - the EEZ-CS Act 65 enables this. Climate change is real - New Zealand has the obligation to deliver its commitment to the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC and the EEZ-CS Act must be amended to include considerations of climate change. Oil Free Wellington submits in support of Climate Justice Taranaki and other groups taking a stand against further oil drilling off the Taranaki Coast by Tamarind in the Tui Field. We urge the EPA to do its job and safe-guard the life support capacity of the environment and take a precautionary approach to avoid any adverse effects on the environment. Tamarind's application asks for up to 5 sideways drilling for up to 4 wells over summer/autumn 2018-19. They think this will take 40-50 days per well maybe longer. They argue a "do nothing" approach would make access to newly identified hydrocarbons unachievable and the risks of sound, vibrations, discharge, turbidity and sedimentation can be mitigated to ensure the ongoing risk to marine mammals and benthic life is low or negligible. We argue the special sensitivity of the marine life in this area, especially the critically endangered Maui's dolphin and the newly identified blue whale population in the south Taranaki bight mean it is imperative the Board of Inquiry take a precautionary approach. A catastrophic failure, however unlikely, would have a devastating effect on the marine sanctuary and too little is known about the blue whale population to know what effects 6-8 months of more activity in the Tui field would have. We realise current legislation means you cannot take climate change and the discharge of greenhouse gases into account when asking this decision. But we would like to make it clear that in terms of the cumulative effects on the environment, on the health and wellbeing of future generations, and on the ongoing protection of biodiversity - there is no doubt that Tamarind's application to drill for more oil and gas will contribute to severe and potentially irreversible damage and loss. The continued burning of fossil fuels warms and acidifies the oceans threatening all its biodiversity. The increase in temperatures and extreme weather events risks human health and onshore biodiversity. With sea level rise included, the monetary costs of climate change will be far in excess of the potential royalties and tax income from extracting fossil fuels. At this time of climate crisis, it is not ethical to be seeking to profit from new fossil fuel extraction.

The submitter have elected to withhold their personal details from publication.