

Our reference:
Enquiries to: Lyndon Cleaver
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7 February 2019

Attention: Mr Brian Nijman
Re: New Zealand's potential accession to MARPOL Annex VI

Dear Mr Nijman

Environment Southland supports the proposal that New Zealand accede to the International Maritime Organisation MARPOL Annex VI: Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships.

Environment Southland is responsible for resource management policy and practice in Southland. In relation to the impact of emissions to air from ships, Environment Southland has particular responsibilities for air quality, the coastal environment, Fiordland, Stewart Island and maritime matters.

International vessels impact Southland's natural and developed environment through operations at the port of Bluff and through the increasing activities of the cruise ships in scenic and largely unspoilt areas such as Stewart Island, Milford Sound and other sounds in Fiordland. Environment Southland works closely with the cruise ship industry to develop a best practice approach to the activities of the industry in these sensitive environments.

Acceding to Annex VI will assist in ensuring reduced impacts on the community of Bluff from the emissions of vessels visiting South Port, this is generally of benefit to the health of that community. Environment Southland is working on a range of initiatives to improve air quality in our communities. Additionally, acceding to Annex VI will aid in minimising impacts on the environment of Stewart Island and Fiordland from visiting cruise ships.

Existing regulations do not provide Environment Southland with any regulatory function over emissions to air from shipping. National participation in the international regulatory regime that leads to reduced emissions to air is desirable and will have long term benefits for communities living adjacent to ports and to the environments of areas visited increasingly by cruise ships.

Environment Southland would be happy to be engaged in any further consultation on this matter.

Regards

Vin Smith
Director – Policy Planning and Regulatory Services