

11 February 2019

Our Ref: SUB002-19

MARPOL Annex V1 submissions  
P.O. Box 3175  
Wellington 6140

Via email: [maritime@transport.govt.nz](mailto:maritime@transport.govt.nz)

Dear Sir/Madam

## **MARPOL Annex V1 submission**

Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit on the MARPOL Annex V1 - Air quality, climate change and health issues for New Zealand. Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB) is committed to improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Hawke's Bay population. We recognise the physical environment as a key factor in ensuring good health, which includes the quality of our air.

### **Background**

The Ministry of Health engaged Emission Impossible Ltd to prepare a briefing on shipping emissions and associated health effects in New Zealand. We understand this report will be made available to the Ministry of Transport via the Ministry of Health. The view of the authors of this report was that the Ministry of Health should support New Zealand's accession to Annex VI. Hawke's Bay District Health Board also supports the discussion and conclusions reached in the Emission Impossible report.

There is extensive research that shows the benefits of greener shipping outweigh the costs. Three compelling reasons are:

- (i) Reduced emissions of harmful air pollutants will result in reduced adverse public health effects (and costs), including premature deaths;
- (ii) Reduced emissions of harmful air pollutants will result in reduced adverse effects on ecosystems (e.g. acidification, deposition of toxics such as heavy metals and dioxins); and
- (iii) Reduced greenhouse gas emissions are a tangible action to combat climate change (an issue of planetary urgency).

### **Port Air Discharges and Health in Napier**

The MARPOL Annex V1 is of particular interest to us in Hawke's Bay due the Port of Napier's close proximity to residential development. The Port is a major export and transport hub on the east coast. It is estimated that 2,697 Napier residents live within 3kms of Napier Port based on latest Stats NZ data. The closest domestic houses are within approximately 350-450m of where vessels berth.

There is a proposal to expand the size of the Port in the future with consent being granted to build a sixth wharf. Locally we are also seeing an increase in shipping and cruise vessels entering the Napier Port each year. During 2019 it is anticipated that a record number of 72 cruise ships will berth at the Port of Napier and it is predicted that this number will continue to increase each year.

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## **C H I E F   E X E C U T I V E   O F F I C E**

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As stated in the Emission Impossible Report, reducing the emissions of harmful air pollutants from ships will have a direct reduction in adverse health effects for the people exposed to those emissions. It is likely that significant public health benefits would be made in the event that harmful air emissions from ships are reduced. Of particular importance would be the reduction in harmful pollutants emitted from ship fuel combustion processes that are carcinogenic such as PM10, Benzene, Dioxins and heavy metals (including lead and mercury).

### **Climate Benefits**

Drafting of a Zero Carbon Bill is currently underway following a wide consultation. Once enacted, the Act will require New Zealand to address emissions wherever opportunities present themselves in order to achieve real reductions in emissions by 2050 or sooner. Accession of MARPOL Annex V1 represents such an opportunity.

It is important to recognise the both direct and indirect effects from climate change on human health. Climate change has a wider impact than recognised in this document. Indirect effects from climate change also include:

- increased harmful algal blooms,
- increased microbial contamination
- decreased food availability/ quality and safety
- decreased mental health wellbeing,
- increased migration of tropical species into New Zealand

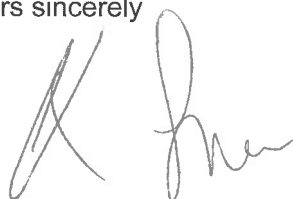
Of particular relevance in Hawke's Bay is the potential for climate change to adversely affect horticulture. Horticulture, along with other types of agriculture, is vital to the economy and for the food security of the country. The potential increase in biosecurity risks, such as the risk of exotic mosquitoes becoming established, is also highly relevant to the health and wellbeing of Napier residents in particular. Such mosquitoes if established could result in the introduction of diseases such as Dengue fever, Zika virus and Malaria.

### **Recommendation**

In summary the HBDHB fully supports New Zealand's accession to MARPOL Annex VI. It is essential that the health of the community and protection to the environment is prioritised.

We do not wish to be heard in relation to this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Snee', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Kevin Snee

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**