

1 September 2016

Marlborough District Council
15 Seymour Street
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240

mep@marlborough.govt.nz

Submission on the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

Introduction

This document constitutes the Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand's (PEPANZ) submission in respect of the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan ("MEP"), which was publicly notified in June 2016. PEPANZ's members include private sector companies holding petroleum exploration and mining permits, service companies and individuals working in the industry.

Our contact details are as follows:

Andrew Saunders
Policy Manager
Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand
PO Box 5227, Lambton Quay, Wellington, 6145
andrew@pepanz.com
027 249 0676

We could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

We do wish to be heard in support of our submission.

Submission

PEPANZ considers the MEP developed by the Marlborough District Council outlines a comprehensive approach to managing relevant effects under the Resource Management Act. Given the particular interest to the offshore oil and gas industry of the Coastal Environment, we have considered Chapter 13 of the MEP (Use of the Coastal Environment) and support its provisions.

The offshore oil and gas industry has been active in the Taranaki Bight located to the north of the Marlborough District for over forty years. Along with other maritime based industries we recognise the importance of the waters of the Marlborough region to undertake maritime activities. For example the role of anchorages in providing shelter. Maritime activities undertaken in the area historically have included transfer operations for mobile drilling units arriving or departing New Zealand waters. Similar oil and gas industry activities in future would likely also be of short duration and low impact. We would expect such activities to continue to be subject to consents in relation to matters such as minor seabed disturbance or the taking of ballast water, as under the operative plan.