



11 August 2017

## **OUTRAGE AT EPA DECISION TO APPROVE SEABED MINING APPLICATION**

The Environmental Protection Authority's split decision to approve the Trans-Tasman Resources seabed mining application is an outrage, said Te Kaahui o Rauru Kaiwhakahaere (General Manager) Anne-Marie Broughton today.

"We will be appealing the decision. It is just plain wrong, as evidenced by two of the four commissioners dissenting against the approval," said Ms Broughton.

"In the past day, we've been through a wide range of emotions, from anger, sadness and frustration to finally landing in a space of steely determination to overturn this decision! We know we are not alone – we've received a huge number of messages from our uri and the wider community who feel the same way." Ms Broughton said it was doubly frustrating for the Government to allocate funding to clean up freshwater earlier this week while also approving works that will devastate the underwater marine environment.

"While the decision paper is 368 pages long, the section with the dissenting commissioners' opinions makes it incredibly clear what risk is being taken and what damage will be done by this approval. I want to mihi to those two commissioners; Gerry Te Kapa Coates and Sharon McGarry, who stood for the environment and common sense. They also pointed out the serious deficiencies in the applicants' engagement with iwi."

Ms Broughton said that the impacts from the approved mining were huge.

"We are talking about excavating 50 million tonnes of seabed per year for 35 years over an area of 65 square kilometres, up to 11 metres deep – every scoop destroying the seabed and marine life and driving away the threatened blue whales who aren't just passing through but live in the Taranaki Bight!"

This was "dinosaur thinking", Ms Broughton said. "Environmental protection is the new economy. This cannot go ahead. We already have sewage from Whanganui being dumped out at sea, plus the nutrient run-off from intensive farming. Enough is enough! We need to overturn this decision, put a moratorium on seabed mining and bring some sense to managing our environment."

**For further information, please contact Anne-Marie Broughton on 027 342 3005.**



*Enough is Enough!! Left to Right: Anne-Marie Broughton, Ora Hohaia, Mary Bennett, Renee Bradley, Ngaire Luke, Arareina Davis, Leara Kauika-Stevens and Mahalia Tapa-Mosen*