

## Paolo Alejandro

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**From:** Naomi James <Naomi.James@refiningnz.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 9:12 am  
**To:** Anne Haira  
**Cc:** Craig Salmon; Riaan Elliot; Refining NZ  
**Subject:** Marsden Point Resource consent renewal  
**Attachments:** Renewal of resource consent for Marsden Point site.pdf

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Dear Anne

Late last week, Refining NZ announced that we have been granted a 35-year resource consent to continue to operate both refinery and import terminal operations at its Marsden Point site (announcement attached).

This resource consent underlines Refining NZ's long-term commitment to Marsden Point, and the wider Northland region.

As part of our Consent application, Refining NZ undertook an extensive assessment of the environmental impacts associated with continued operations at Marsden Point. This included detailed assessments of the effects of our activities on the harbour, land, air quality and the surrounding community which found that the effects of the refinery's impacts ranged from minor to negligible.

I wanted to highlight a small number of areas of particular note, including:

- The effects of the refinery discharge on harbour water quality were considered to be less than minor, with some effects no more than minor but transitory.
- Overall harbour water quality in the vicinity of the Refinery was high. Concentrations of contaminants in the marine sediments were low.
- The effects of our operation on public health were considered to be less than minor to negligible.
- The effects on the terrestrial ecosystem were considered to be less than minor.
- Marine ecological values at the Refinery jetty and adjacent to the site were found to be high.
- There is a free phase plume of hydrocarbons under the site, but this is effectively contained by the current hydraulic containment system with no escape of hydrocarbons from the site to the surrounding environment.
- Adverse cultural impacts were identified by local Iwi. Refining NZ has worked alongside our Iwi partners to put in place suitable mitigation packages to address the effects.

As a condition of the resource consent, Refining NZ has committed to continuing to ensure our site maintains the current high level of environmental standards. These are:

- To comply with discharge standards for both water and air which ensure the environmental effects are minimised.
- On-going continuous monitoring of our discharges to water and air to ensure compliance.
- Operation of our hydraulic containment system to prevent escape of hydrocarbons from the site via groundwater.
- Application of detailed management systems to ensure that operations are undertaken to minimise any compliance issues.
- Monitoring of sediments, shellfish in the marine environment, and lichens and vegetation in the terrestrial environment to confirm environmental effects.

Environmental measures at Marsden Point include operation of a groundwater hydraulic containment system and hydrocarbon recovery program reducing the extent of legacy contamination over time as part of our ongoing remediation of the site.

We have rigorous processes in place to ensure that our clean-up of spills is in accordance with the approved management plan to prevent any further legacy contamination.

Further to this, management of earthworks on our site is in accordance with our ground contamination management plan to appropriately deal with any contaminated soil. We undertake regular monitoring and reporting of our extensive groundwater network to track hydrocarbon contamination of groundwater and we regularly assessment maintenance and capital projects to ensure appropriate environmental controls are in place.

Finally, as a condition of our resource consent, Refining NZ has also committed to work with the Northland Regional Council ahead of time to plan for an orderly wind-up of operations, should refinery and import terminal operations on site cease in the future.

I am available at any time should you wish to discuss these issues, and I look forward to working alongside you on important issues related to Marsden Point in the future.

Kind regards  
Naomi

## Naomi James

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