

Forest & Bird – comment on proposed conditions

Re the Whakatane Commercial Boat Harbour

All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

1. Contact Details

Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.

Organisation name (if relevant)	Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.		
*First name	Darren		
*Last name	Van Hoof		
Postal address	P.O. Box 631, Wellington, 6011		
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*Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)	d.vanhoof@forestandbird.org.nz		

2. *We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment

yes	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	€	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct
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3. Please provide your comments on this application

INTRODUCTION

Forest & Bird provided comment on the application and appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed conditions.

IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Overall Forest & Bird is pleased to see that the proposed conditions are very clear and that most of the concerns raised have been addressed in the conditions.

The reasons for our support and suggested improvements are set out with respect to conditions as follows.

Conditions 5.2.1 (j) (iii) and 2.6.1 (c): We are particularly encouraged by the referencing of the Australian Government Guidelines (Commonwealth of Australia. 2020. National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife Including Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Migratory Shorebirds) but it would be helpful to include an advice note as follows:

Advice Note the species particularly affected in the Whakatane environment is ōi, the grey-faced petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* which is a taonga for Ngati Awa. There is a significant colony on nearby Moutohora, and there are also land-based nesting sites around Kahi Point.

Restoration Plan

Condition 1.2.10.2: We are pleased that the Restoration Plan must be first submitted to the Eastern Bay of Plenty Branch and the Whakatane Harbour Care Group prior to submission to the councils

which provides for the opportunity to be involved in the planning and implementation of the restoration works provided for in the Restoration Plan.

This allows for meaningful input from local knowledge.

Architecture and Urban Design Report

Condition 2.2.2 (f): Specifying low reflectivity on all external surfaces of buildings and structures visible from public places meets the concerns of the local branch. Including all structures is an important detail as some structures such as cranes, and shipping containers which have little or no aesthetic values, may be used on site and will be highly visible from the Warren Cole walkway across the river.

Amend to include all structures, not just those visible at public spaces.

Landscape Planting Plan

Condition 2.3.3 (b): The screening of retaining walls is also welcomed. However, we are disappointed to that the Community Liaison Group is not being provided with more opportunity for input and is merely a receiver of information. This is set out in Conditions 1.2.3.6 where the Community Liaison Group purpose is limited by “(e) Any approved changes” to only provide information on **approved** changes after the fact, as opposed to advising of any changes sought and seeking comment.

Forest & Bird considers that this amounts to tokenism. Given a level of opposition to the development in the community at large, expressed through letters to the editor in the local newspaper, it is only fair to provide for a voice, albeit limited, on any proposed changes to conditions.

We are also disappointed that the Community Liaison Group is not to be given the opportunity to comment on the Architecture and Landscape Plans and consider that this should be changed before finalising the conditions.

19 May 2022

Darren Van Hoof for Forest & Bird

