



FRM 2018 Ltd
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21/10/22

The Consents Manager
Gisborne District Council
GISBORNE 4010

RE Eastland Port Twin Berth Stage 2 resource consent application

To whom it may concern,

FRM is a family owned contracting company who runs Logging and Roding machinery in forestry, we own and operate two local quarries (Matokitoki quarry and Rakauroa quarry) and also undertake civil earthworks. FRM has operated in the forest industry for some 20 years to date employing around 15 staff members for this sector of our business.

As a logging contractor here on the East Coast, it has been a very tough few years with lots of disruptions, along with many variables causing contractors to slow down or stop working regularly which have been outside of our control. Some of these being Covid and Chinese AWG prices which cannot be helped. But there are some aspects which I think could be changed to help the forest industry including the upgrade of the Eastland Port twin berth project to streamline log truck unloading, port storage and log ship turn arounds.

Trucks arriving at the port often have waits of up to an hour or so long before being unloaded, making trucking inefficient which eventuates in higher cartage costs for wood to be delivered to port, and less loads picked up from the forest putting forest owners and contractors out of pocket.

Swell events happen regularly causing a gap in ship loading which means less logs can be loaded each month, and often this means stopping work for the logging contractors as there is no space to bring logs in from the forest, again putting forest owners and contractors out of pocket.

At present FRM have been forced to relocate our operations to the Hawkes Bay region to strategically place ourselves to cart more of our wood to the Napier Port where there are less disruptions. This is hard on our staff with long travel times and having to stay away from their families, but brings much financial benefit to continue our business.

It is now essential that the twin birth upgrade goes ahead, so that once it has been completed some of these interruptions will be resolved creating a stronger future for the forest and logging industry here in Gisborne, and we hope to bring our logging operations back to our region so that we can employ more local people and support our community once again.

We fully support Eastland Port gaining these consents and undertaking the works to elevate the issues we are experiencing currently, future proof our regions gateway to the global market, and bring back confidence to the forestry industry in Gisborne.

Best Regards

Danny Drummond