



Stubbs Contractors Ltd
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Makaraka
Gisborne

25th October 2022

EPL Twin Berth Submission

I Robert Stubbs of Stubbs Contractors Ltd a Forestry Contracting business in the Tairāwhiti District wish to support the Eastland Port with all their submissions to the Gisborne District Council around and for the Twin Berth project.

Stubbs Contractors Ltd is a well-established Forestry Contractor in the Eastland Tairāwhiti region. We have been logging here for 22 years supplying logs to Forestry owners or Managers who predominantly put their wood through the Eastland Port to export markets.

In the earlier years and as the industry grew the port and the surrounding Infrastructure coped with the volumes well. Albeit some disruptions such as the Jody F ship beaching.

Over this time Stubbs Contractors has also grown with the industry reaching a point of 5 Harvesting crews around 2018 employing some 50 staff producing around 200-250,000 tonnes of logs for export annually.

At this time and leading in to 2020 the industry locally was booming and the Port and supporting Infrastructure was bulging at the seams with the volume being harvested, trucked, and delivered to the Port, stored and loaded on to ships for export.

At times then we had reduced volumes uplifted and carted from Forest sites due to a lack of storage space and the inconsistencies in loading ships and turning them around quick enough.

This caused significant losses in our company turnover and a reduction in employee hours of work and subsequent take home pay for them.

At this same time the port did the maintenance work required to handle the new loading cranes.

This delay in shipping caused substantial disruption to our business and our workflow.

In one case we ended up with one job completed and half the volume of the block stacked on skids in storage as they waited for trucking to recommence once storage and ships had started moving again.

This was at the time as boat after boat started waiting offshore to be loaded.

The affect of this situation has flowed on ever since causing significant disruption to the industry and ultimately Contractors and their employees.

As we are aware the cost of shipping out of this region has increased due to the risks and timeframes for loading and the extra cost that comes with it. This now affects our local AWG prices and in turn has reduced the harvesting rate locally resulting in less crews, terminated logging contracts and employee redundancy. Stubbs Contractors is now down to 2 crews and those crews are working in the Opotiki, Bay of Plenty region. We at this point have no local harvesting crews yet until the market picks up enough to return to work here. Sadly, this has significantly reduced our turnover in this region and the wages we pay to be spent in this region.

We welcome the submission approval to continue with the twin berth project to increase loading capacity and see quicker turn around for ships and more consistent wood flow through the port maintaining storage capacity and allowing harvesting crews to maintain more consistent production rates.

These changes should in turn bring back better AWG prices and increase harvesting volumes again in the region.

Along with this needs to be the strengthening of the existing break water and infrastructure, deepening of the channel and turn around for these ships and larger ships to allow the industry to build back up to 3 million capacity and further increase it to 4.2 million as the harvest cut increases. This will see Contractors such as us build our business' back up to multiple crews, high volume harvesting and a significant number of local staff taking good wages home and passing that back into the community as they go about their family and daily lives.

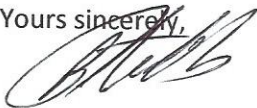
Not only our business but the benefit to similar business' in our Industry and the benefit to other Industries such as Horticulture will increase the profitability of associated business' and ultimately the Tairawhiti region in which we all do business.

Coastal shipping can also be introduced with a lot of associated benefits.

The Tairawhiti region, business, people, and its economy can only benefit and do better by the approval of these submissions and the Port being able to increase its capacity to ship to export markets and nationally with coastal shipping.

I look forward to the Gisborne District Council seeing the submission as an economic and regional benefit to the community as it brings more jobs to Industries and wealth to be circulated in the district in the form of wages and business expenditure.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Stubbs
Managing Director