

16 September 2016

Ministry for the Environment
Wellington

Via email to: svlconsultation@mfe.govt.nz

Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed regulation of jettisoned material from space launch vehicles in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone – Discussion Document

1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's (the Council) comments on the above named Discussion Document. This submission has been prepared by senior council staff and has not been considered by elected representatives due to the relative timing of the consultation period and council meetings.
2. We broadly support the proposals outlined in the Discussion Document, particularly those relating to:
 - a. the Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) undertaken by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Ltd (New Zealand) (NIWA); and
 - b. the economic opportunities for the Wairoa District relating to rocket tourism.

Assessment of Environmental Effects

3. The Discussion Document proposes to make the deposit of jettisoned material a permitted activity with appropriate terms and conditions under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZ Act). This is a similar approach as taken to regulating the environmental effects of seismic surveying, marine scientific research, and prospecting and exploration for petroleum (excluding exploration drilling).
4. Based on the advice and results of the NIWA Report, we support the permitted activity status of the deposit of jettisoned material onto the EEZ's seabed, subject to relevant conditions and terms.

Space Tourism Opportunities in Wairoa District

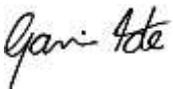
5. In September 2015, Wairoa District Council granted Rocket Lab resource consents to build and launch space vehicles from the Mahia Peninsula. Sapere Research Group (Sapere) has undertaken an independent economic impact analysis of the development of a space vehicle launch industry in New Zealand. Overall, Sapere estimated that the establishment of a space vehicle launch industry could directly contribute around \$30 – \$80 million per year in value-add to the New Zealand economy (\$600 – \$1,550 million over a 20 year period).
6. We strongly support development of economic opportunities within the Wairoa District, including those associated with Rocket Lab's operations. Last month, the Regional Council agreed to commit a further \$20,000 towards further market research on Rocket tourism and related-infrastructure challenges and opportunities.

7. The Regional Council's address for service in relation to this submission is:

Hawke's Bay Regional Council
159 Dalton Street
Private Bag 6006
NAPIER 4110
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8. Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. If you have any queries on this submission, in the first instance please contact Esther-Amy Powell using the details above.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Ide

MANAGER STRATEGY & POLICY