



MEDIA STATEMENT

Updated 25 August 2016

Trans-Tasman Resources lodges EPA marine consent application to extract iron sands off South Taranaki coast

Trans-Tasman Resources (TTR) has today lodged a Marine Consent application with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for our proposed South Taranaki Bight (STB) iron sands mining project.

The application covers an area of 65.76 km², between 22 and 36 kilometres off the west coastline of South Taranaki within New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone.

The proposed recovery and export of titaniferous iron sand will be a sustainable world-leading, marine-based development that can be delivered and operated with minimal environmental impact.

The application follows TTR's original application which was declined by a Decision Making Committee (DMC) appointed by the EPA in 2014.

"Since then TTR has undertaken a comprehensive program of additional science and engineering work to update and refine the environmental assessments of its application and how it can be successfully undertaken," said TTR's Executive Chairman Alan Eggers. "We are confident this program addresses all the previous DMC's concerns.

"We have undertaken extensive engagement and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, regulators and interest groups, as well as the EPA, to complete our application that includes an Environmental Impact Assessment, Management Plan, Operating Conditions and the future environmental Monitoring Regime."

TTR plan to extract up to 50 million tonnes of iron sand each year, separating titaniferous ore from the sediment on a processing vessel and returning approximately 90 per cent of the sand to the sea bed in a controlled process into previously mined areas. The seafloor in the area to be dredged is situated within a vast expanse of sand, experiencing significant wave and tidal action with no significant marine features.

"We have also addressed concerns and questions on the STB project including its commercial impacts and economic benefits locally, regionally and for New Zealand."

The total economic impact of the STB iron sands project are estimated to be:

- At the local level, to generate an additional \$45 million in expenditure, generating \$20 million in GDP and directly supporting 300 jobs;

- At the regional level, to generate an additional \$110 million in expenditure, generating \$50 million in GDP and supporting 700 jobs; and
- At a national level, to generate an additional \$350 million in expenditure, generate \$160 million in GDP and support 1,650 new jobs.

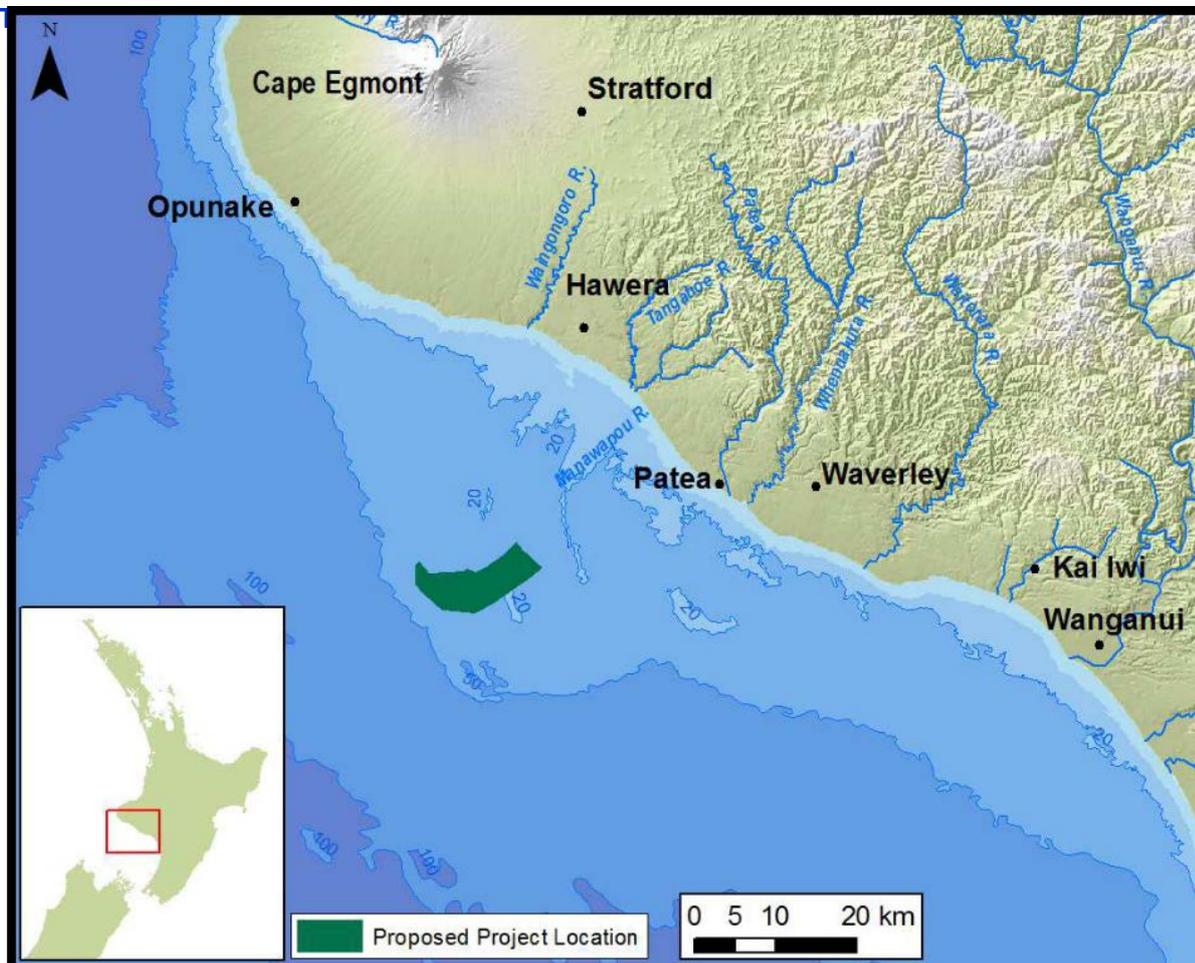
The project would add to the diversification of the economic activity in the Taranaki and Whanganui region and contribute to government income through additional taxes and royalties and New Zealand export earnings of around \$300 million a year.

“As a majority owned and registered New Zealand company we are passionate about developments that provide opportunities for investment in world class, best practice and sustainable developments that deliver positive economic, environmental and social outcomes for New Zealand,” said Mr Eggers.

Alan J Eggers
Executive Chairman
Trans-Tasman Resources Limited

For more information contact:
Amanda +64 2 1027 97804

Further information [on TTR](#), its business plans [and the South Taranaki Bight iron sands project](#) is available in a video [here](#) and on our website at www.ttrl.co.nz



About TTR

TTR is a New Zealand majority owned and registered company that was established in 2007 to explore and develop the North Island's offshore iron sand deposits. The Company is headquartered in Wellington and funded by New Zealand and international investment.

Since inception TTR has spent more than \$70 million on defining the resource potential, environmental assessment of the proposed mining areas and possible impacts of the mining, mine engineering and process design, ore marketing and the processing and shipping operations associated with the resource extraction and iron sands export operations in the South Taranaki Bight.

TTR proposes to seabed mine up to 50 million tonnes of iron rich sands per year in NZ's Exclusive Economic Zone, approximately 22 to 36 kilometres off the coast of Patea in water depths of 20 to 45 metres. The operation when in full production will produce 5 million tonnes pa of iron ore concentrate for export. 90% of the mined sands will be re-deposited on the seafloor in a controlled manner backfilling previous mined areas to enable immediate rehabilitation. The sands will be processed offshore aboard an integrated mining vessel with the project directly employing more than 300 New Zealand based staff and support personnel.

Trans-Tasman has made a significant investment in, and commitment to, the development of its offshore South Taranaki iron sands mining project. The Company remains committed to securing EPA marine consent to facilitate the financing, construction and commissioning of this technologically advanced tier one world class marine mining operation. The project will deliver substantial economic benefits to New Zealand whilst employing the world's best practice with sustainable environmental outcomes.