



## Expert Witness – Expansion Project

### Ports of Auckland

Navigatus has been engaged twice in a peer review and expert witness role in support of two separate expansion projects. Geraint Bermingham, a director of Navigatus was asked to prepare an affidavit on behalf of the Port of Auckland (POAL) in relation to the judicial review proceedings brought by Urban Auckland (the Society for the Protection of Auckland City and Waterfront Incorporated) against the Auckland Council and POAL. The proceedings were brought about by Urban Auckland challenging the Council's decision to grant POAL resource consents to construct two concrete piled wharves.

The work involved office based and on-water research to assess the effect of change as well as on-going navigational risk. The port operates in a complex maritime environment with a busy mix of inherently incompatible, commercial, military, power and sail recreational and fast ferry traffic.

The work involved reviewing the original assessments carried out by the Chief Pilot and required both theoretical as well as practical understanding of the maritime environment as well as the operation of the port. The interaction between vessels, wind, tidal effects and the shallow bottom were considered.

The risk benefits of the projects were considered from a perspective of the risk if existing operations and berth arrangements vs. the future proposed berthing plan. The level of public interest required the work to consider the effect on all other port and harbour users and to be able to withstand legal challenge.

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This illustrates that Navigatus is recognised as expert in the field of coastal and navigational safety. It also illustrates Navigatus' position as a trusted advisor to a large commercial port company and shows knowledge of port operations, ship handling and maritime legislation. It also demonstrates Navigatus previous work building an understanding of the context, assessing existing documentation, identifying risks and confidential consultation with other experts.

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