

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued by New Zealand Shippers Council

New Zealand Shippers Council welcomes strategic freight alliance

27 June 2014

The New Zealand Shippers Council welcomes yesterday's announcement from the Port of Tauranga that it is to start an investment programme, including dredging, that will enable bigger ships to start adding New Zealand to their global network of services. The Council believes that this will help ensure that our exporters and importers retain direct links to its overseas markets.

In 2009 the Council called for four ports around New Zealand to develop and implement measures that would enable larger ships to call on our ports. This was seen as essential in order both to protect access to overseas markets and to gain access to the financial benefits of larger container ships and conventional break bulk vessels.

The Council recognises and acknowledges the long term nature of the contacts announced yesterday which enables both the Port of Tauranga and Maersk shipping line to commit to bigger ships calling New Zealand in the near future.

The council is still of the view that to accommodate future long term trade growth and to retain the resilience from both natural and man made incidents that the remaining ports of Auckland Lyttelton and Otago are still required to continue on with their expansion plans to accommodate bigger ships.

The council remains of the view that for ports, carriers, and shippers to realise the benefits of bigger ships they need to be fully utilised and to that end we are hopeful that carriers other than Maersk will be able to participate in any bigger ship service.

For further information please call:

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