

Before the Manawatu District Council Hearing Committee

in the matter of

Proposed Plan Changes 52, 55, and 60  
of the Manawatu District Plan

Submission by Jean Kahui

Coordinator, Frack Free Kapiti.

## Frack Free Kapiti Background

Frack Free Kapiti was established in 2014 when our community became aware that OMV, an Austrian oil company, was hydraulically fracturing off shore oil wells directly off the Kapiti Coast.

OMV began extracting and processing oil from the Maari field in 2009 and have reported three oil spills to date. Crude oil from OMV spills has beached along the Taranaki to Wellington coast, reported as far south as Kapiti with clean ups of oil and contaminated sand having been necessary.

Frack Free Kapiti made submissions to the EPA in 2014 requesting OMV's application to drill further wells from the Maari platform was declined. We presented evidence OMV had been hydraulically fracturing at the site and considered the practice and the waste it produced dangerous and an unacceptable threat to our coastal environment.

OMV stated while had been hydraulic fracturing wells at Maari since 2009, they had ceased the practice in 2014 prior to the EPA hearing. The EPA did grant consent for further wells to be developed and community groups opposed did not appeal for financial reasons.

Last week on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, Maritime NZ reported the Maari platform has been shut down and staff evacuated as a precautionary measure while it deals with a 1.4 meter crack in the platform structure.

The crack was found in one of the platform's horizontal struts. It is uncertain what caused the crack and the Kaikoura earthquake has not been ruled out as a cause.

We can now only hope and pray that this, or further damage to the Maari platform does not end in disaster for our coastal communities.

Reason for this submission to MDC

Resource consents are often granted in New Zealand with a 'she'll be right' attitude. This attitude can advance wealth and business opportunities for some, but it does place undue risk of, or actual environmental damage to the greater community and to future generations.

One way to mitigate that risk and damage is to develop district plans that firstly and foremost; protect the natural environment and eco systems in the district. No-one is more motivated to protect the environment than the people who depend on it for their own survival.

It is for this reason Frack Free Kapiti wishes to support to the submission made to MDC by local resident and bee keeper Maree Docherty.

We join Ms Docherty in requesting the Council amend the Manawatu District Plan to ensure it can, and will prohibit 'land farming' within the MDC boundaries. 'Land farming' being -in fact- the disposal of contaminated waste from the oil and gas industry into and onto land.

Regarding Proposed Plan Change 55 Earthworks, we support the adoption of option 1. To provide clear objectives for earth works and to provide clear standards relating to earthworks that are permitted with the different land use zones.

We support Ms Docherty's proposal: that "land farming" be listed as a prohibited activity to protect farming and the environment in the Manawatu District.

More about 'land farms'

A sheep farm produces sheep and wool, a dairy farm produces milk and cream and a 'land farm' produces contaminated-land. Language to powerful and the practice of putting the oil industry's contaminated waste on New Zealand farm and coastal land needs to be identified clearly.

May 2015, the New Plymouth District Council announced (contaminated) land farms and other areas where oil and industry waste is "simply buried on farms" will now be monitored by district councils who will enforce existing rules around contaminated soil. Clearance will need to be given before produce can be grown or stock can be let loose on that land. The officer said "The understanding as to what should and should not take place on a

(contaminated) land farm perhaps hasn't been rigidly controlled, so is somewhat in the hands of the landowner up until now, but we've had these statutory obligations, and we have to manage our way through these." The same news report noted Fonterra issued a statement the same day, saying it has no plans of changing its stance on not collecting milk from any new (contaminated) land farms.

This report tends to suggest that contaminated land farms will sit idle for quite some time. The unconventional extraction of oil and gas does produce 100 times more waste than conventional extraction\* so it does follow that more and more farm and coastal lands will be required for disposal of the waste as the industry expands.

Some communities within the Horizon Council region have already made it clear to the council that being known as a food producing region is important to them on many levels, including economic. They are definite in not wanting that status compromised by oil and gas activity. Closing the gate before the industry comes to town is known to be the easiest and most cost effective way of keeping food production areas oil and gas free including oil and gas industry waste free.

In a brief and clear submission, Maree Docherty has put before you evidence and expert opinion that supports the call to prohibit contaminated land farming in the Manawatu district. We, along with Ms Docherty will appear before the Council to furnish further information as required.

Thank you for considering this important matter.

Jean Kahui

Coordinator, Frack Free Kapiti.

<http://www.newsinenglish.no/all-stories/all-stories-2/all-stories/all-2012-stories/>

