Corey Burgess

From:

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre <natex=tcil.co.nz@mail237.atl121.mcsv.net> on

behalf of Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre <natex@tcil.co.nz>

Sent:

Thursday, 27 April 2017 9:21 p.m.

To:

Josh Adams

Subject:

Situation Report: NZ Oil & Gas Industry: 27 April 2017

Thompson+Clark SitRep @2017

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THOMPSON + CLARK INVESTIGATIONS UP / DETECTION / PROJECTION / SECURITY

Situation Report

- Client Confidential -

Oil & Gas Activism

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 27 April 2017

Contact: Nick Thompson or Gavin Clark

Phone: \$9(2)(a) or \$9(2)(a)



Threat Level

The assessed level of threat from issue-motivated group (IMG) activism and protest directed towards oil and gas industry clients is currently assessed at **MODERATE** (Code Blue) for onshore operations, and also **MODERATE** for offshore in relation to vessels engaged in industry-related operations, particularly when in port.

On the east coast of the North Island where there is current protest to offshore seismic surveying operations by the research vessel Amazon Warrior, the threat level is assessed as HIGH (Code Orange) requiring a heightened response for offshore operations and when vessels related to the Amazon Warrior are in port

This threat rating is in response to Greenpeace New Zealand announcing it has renewed protest against oil and gas companies in New Zealand through a campaign of direct action and civil disobedience and its current focus on opposition to seismic surveying operations. For further information about the threat assessment response, please refer to the explanation of Thompson+Clark's Risk Assessment Methodology at the end of this SitRep.

Explanation

This Situation Report (SitRep) summarizes recent relevant protests and activities by IMGs and activists opposed to operations both onshore and offshore by the oil and gas industry over the past week. It looks at risks to current Industry operations and events, and at trends and developments both domestically and overseas (where relevant). It is based on open and public sources of information.

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Seismic Allegations Resurface

26 April

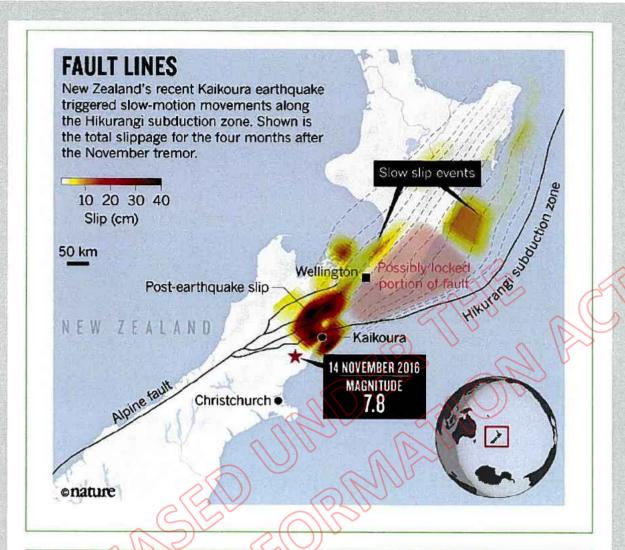
Greenpeace New Zealand's Executive Director, recently charged for jumping in the sea in front of the oncoming seismic survey vessel Amazon Warrior, has used commentary from GNS scientists speaking at an international conference this month about New Zealand's recent earthquakes to support his organisation's opposition to the vessel's operations here.

In a social media post to his more than 10,000 Facebook friends and followers, the former Green Party co-leader says the scientists found there were, "Ongoing slow slips of the sea floor in exactly the area where Chevron and Statoil are looking to drill for oil."

"Surely," he says, "Drilling for oil in this area is highly risky? Wouldn't the whole seafloor moving creates risks of a rupture and oil spill?"

Although there is no suggestion Greenpeace supports the theory, the post has renewed inaccurate social media allegations that the operations of the Amazon Warrior were somehow linked to last year's Kaikoura earthquake.

See here for a report on what the GNS scientists actually said about what they have discovered about the earthquake: https://tinyurl.com/leb86u5



Locals Disagree on Taranaki Flaring

25 April

The issue motivated group Taranaki Energy Watch (TEW) has claimed this month's unusual flaring at the Oaonui Production Station is more common than people think.

"Local communities are not aware of the constant nature of the potential serious health and safety risks of onshore oil and gas facilities in Taranaki," TEW's spokeswoman has said commenting on the flare (see image below).

"The recent sudden flare up at Maui Production Station isn't a one-off. Since mid-2013 there have been more than 200 petroleum dangerous occurrences and notifiable incidents reported to the High Hazard Unit. Fifty of these have occurred at Maui Production Station.

"This is a dangerous industry near our homes and families in Taranaki," she said.

However, the chairman of the Opunake Community Board disagrees. He has been quoted by the Taranaki Daily News as saying, "The flare goes all the time and I don't

know how you could inform the community any better. This was a one-off and nothing to be concerned over," he said.



Petroleum Conference Protest Review

24 April

A leading Christchurch activist who helped organise the protests against the 2017 Petroleum Conference in New Plymouth last month, has provided a review of the protests on her blogsite 'Fossil Fools'.

Entitled 'Rivers of Resistance,' the blog expresses pride in the fact some delegates attending the conference were for awhile deliberately blocked by the protesters from being able to access the conference venue (see photo below of Police removing obstructive protesters).

The activist writes, "The deluded people we addressed were the delegates pushing a fossil fuel agenda in a climate that's already wreaking havoc. They stood in front of our blockade, rain dripping down their suits, looking surprised and uncomfortable." Continuing on to express the moral justification for the protesters' behaviour, the militant blogger (who has previously participated in climate action direct action protests) says, "We want to make society accountable to those worst impacted by our collective behaviour. The hundreds of thousands of people expected to die each year from the effects of a rapidly changing climate, for example. A conference promoting industries that exacerbate the climate crisis met our definition of injustice. So we came to shut it down."

Describing Taranaki as the "front line of fossil fuel resistance in Aotearoa," she claims the conference, "Represented the industries sending the climate into chaos. But for many people it represented more than that. It was a continuation of colonisation that attempts to sever Maori people from the land and ocean...the oil and gas industry's occupation of Taranaki is symbolic of something far older, and far deeper than the climate crisis. It symbolises an assault on a whole culture of people."

Although Greenpeace NZ, which played a significant role in organising the protests, made a sizeable issue out of the fact the protests would be non-violent, the blogger lets us know that this was a decision not all the protesters agreed with. "There were differing opinions about the level of physicality that can come under the umbrella of non-violence...The sheer gravity of the issues mean that emotions run high at events like this," she writes.

The full blog can be read here: https://tinyurl.com/mgpr32w



Iwi Holds Oil & Gas Protest Summit

22 April

The East Coast iwi Ngāti Kahungunu, in conjunction with its aligned issue motivated group Te Ikaroa, held a protest summit at Wellington's Victoria University School of Law on the topic of 'Resisting Oil Exploration' in waters off the East Coast of the North Island (see photos below).

One prominent speaker at the event specialises in Treaty of Waitangi and

constitutional issues, and is of Ngāti Kahungunu and Ngāti Porou descent. He is Director of the Maori Legal Service (Nga Kaiwhakamarama I Nga Ture) and told the meeting that the activities of the Amazon Warrior and oil companies were not new but were, "A continuation of colonising atrocities."

In a message to is supporters on 19 April via Facebook, Te Ikaroa said, "Statoil and Chevron are just two oil companies attacking Ikaroa Rawhiti - East Coast, Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa waters enabled by the NZ Govt and the Govt has just opened our waters for more. We must work together to stop this.

"Please consider holding a public meeting in your area to share information and coordinate resistance. Let us know any activity you are planning or may need help with. We are more than happy to support."



presents

Te Ikaroa Summit

Resisting Oil Exploitation in Te Ikaroa

Saturday 22 April 2017 Victoria University Law School 11am - 4pm

Programme

11.am Whakatau

11.15 Tina Ngata - Indigenous Peoples,

Governments & the Oil Industry.

12.30pm Kai

1pm Raihania Tipoki - Waka Moana Indigenous

Protection, Indigenous Resistance.

2.30pm Moana Jackson - Oil Exploitation, FSSB

Legislation, Colonisation Continued.

3.45pm Karakia Whakakapi

open to all, koha welcome







Greenpeace: Stayed Tuned for Protest

22 April

Greenpeace New Zealand has hinted that it hasn't finished protesting against the seismic survey vessel Amazon Warrior.

In a social media message on 22 April to its more than 174,000 followers on Facebook, Greenpeace New Zealand provided a link to is online campaign against oil companies Chevron and Statoil and stated, "The tragedy of Deep Water Horizon, *7* years on. New Zealand's oil is even deeper. What consequences would a spill have for our Maui dolphins, or Hectors? What about the blue whales? And Is it worth it? Our campaign against oil is stepping up, Join it here, and stay tuned."

See: https://tinyurl.com/muozbbb

STOP SEISMIC BLASTING FOR OIL



Seismic blasting for oil is happening RIGHT NOW between Napier and Kaikoura on behalf of Statoil and Chevron. They want to do it out of sight and out of mind, but we're making that very difficult.

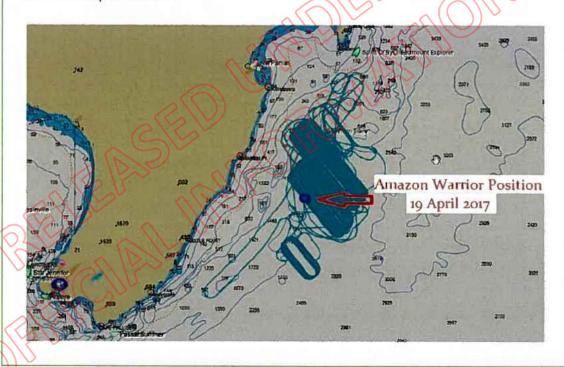
Iwi Calls Permit Renewal 'Exploitation'

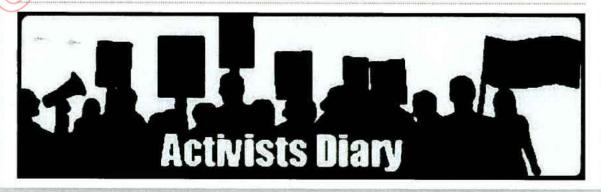
20 April

The iwi governing body for Ngāti Kahungunu has described the Government's extension of the licence for the seismic survey vessel Amazon Warrior to operate here "exploitation."

Commenting on 20 April to its members, Te Runanga o Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Whanganui ā Tara said in a Facebook post, "The Amazon Warrior's licence was due to expire in May, the NZ Govt has extended that licence until July.

"Oil company interests exceed the rights of the New Zealand public...The NZ Govt and oil companies will continue to exploit our lands and rights. This is just the beginning, the Govt has just opened new areas in our region for further exploitation. We must stop this now."



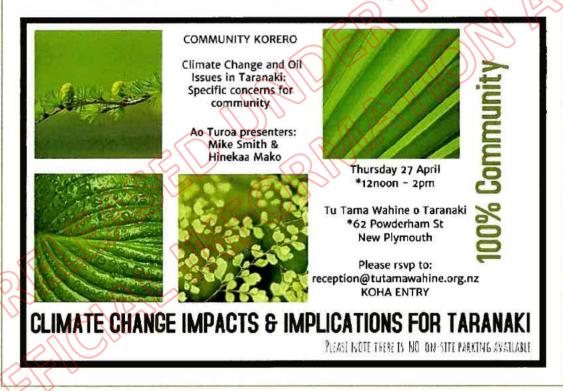


Taranaki Oil & Gas Activist Korero

27 April

Two prominent anti-oil and gas activists from Northland are presenting a 'Community Korero' on climate change and oil, issues in New Plymouth on 27 April. The two-hour presentation will focus on "specific concerns for (the Taranaki) community".

Both have been regular visitors to Taranaki, assisting with campaigns Greenpeace and other issue motivated groups have been running on the issue of climate change and opposition to oil and gas production. This event is being held at Tu Tama Wahine o Taranaki, 62 Powderham Street, New Plymouth.



People's Climate March

29 April

The climate issue motivated group 350 Christchurch is holding a people's climate parade on 29 April in Cathedral Square between 12-2pm. This event is part of a global series of marches planned on 29 April by the People's Climate Movement and is being supported by Greenpeace.

This event is just one of several of a series of events organised by 350 Christchurch

in support this global march.

On 27 April 350 Christchurch will hold a MPs' Climate Debate at the Aurora Centre, Burnside High School, with members of parliament from the Labour Party, Greens, National, and NZ First speaking.

Then on 28 April, 350 Christchurch says it is holding an educational evening at the WEA called 'The Latest Science of Climate Change'. Following the march on 29 April, 350 Christchurch is also holding a climate film screening at the Academy Gold Theatre on 01 May.



29

People's Climate Parade

Public - Hosted by 350 Christchurch

Waka Activists to Speak

05 May

Four of the crew of the Ngāti Kahungunu waka, Te Matau a Māui which recently protested against the seismic survey vessel Amazon Warrior, will be giving a public address in Lower Hutt on 05 May about their experiences on the protest.

The activists plan to give the talk prior to their departure for Hawaii to join a traditional ocean voyaging canoe building programme.

The East Coast issue motivated group Te Ikaroa which is organising the event says that, "While they are travelling they will share the story of resistance by their peoples of Te Ikaroa Rāwhiti against oil giants Chevron and Statoil.

"The evening is an opportunity for voyagers to share their experiences with waka

and the role of waka to protect the oceans. It is also an opportunity to discuss oil exploitation in Te Ikaroa."



Another Christchurch Climate Event

10 May

Christchurch seems to the centre of climate change activism at the moment, with a sixth climate event now planned in the city over coming weeks.

The youth climate group Generation Zero say they are holding a seminar entitled, "Disrupting Climate Change in NZ". This event is being held a the EPC Innovation Campus and is part of Tech Week'.

Generation Zero says there are two parts to the evening, which starts at 5.30pm; Part One: INFORM. Expert speakers will present on aspects such as the technology available to combat climate change and the opportunities and barriers within each sector.

Part Two: ENGAGE. A small group session where participants select a technological opportunity and explore approaches to make it happen. Approaches could include a start-up, a community project, or a campaign.

Guest speakers for the evening are:

- Judy Ryan: Sustainability Programme Advisor at Z Energy
- Suzi Kerr: Senior Fellow at Motu Economic and Public Policy Research
- Luke van Zeller: General Manager at Infratec Ltd







Disrupting Climate Change

in New Zealand







10

Disrupting Climate Change #twnz17

Public Hosted by Generation Zero

'Hands Across the Sands' Oil Protest

20 May

The issue motivated group Oil Free Otautahi (Christchurch) is one of the few New Zealand groups of its kind to be still holding their annual 'Hands Across the Sands' beachside protest against oil and gas exploration and production. As in past years, this event is being held at New Brighton beach.

The group says, "For seven years now, Christchurch has participated in the international event Hands Across the Sand, which is an event to get the world to stand together in unison against deep sea oil drilling.

"This years Hands Across the Sand is based around the theme of strength and unitywe will come back every year until our beautiful coastline is declared Oil Free."

So far, 31 people have indicated on the group's Facebook page that they will be attending.



20 20 Hands Across the Sand 2017: We're still

here

Public Hosted by Oil Free Otautahi

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behalf of Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre <natex@tcil.co.nz>

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Josh Adams

Subject:

Situation Report: NZ Oil & Gas Industry: 11 May 2017

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Oil & Gas Activis

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 11 May 2017

Contact: Nick Thompson or Gavin Clark or s 9(2)(a)

Phone: \$ 9(2)(a)



Threat Level

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Australian Consulate Protest

10 May

The issue motivated group 350 Aotearoa protested outside the Australian Consulate-General in Auckland this week in response to what the climate action group claims is the Australian Government's encouragement for private industry to extract fossil fuels, and in particular coal mines.

In a social media message to its supporters reporting on the protest, 350 Aotearoa said, "As the Australian Government is so keen to support the Adani Carmichael mega coal mine, we thought they might like a few more climate deniers in their midst.

"We arrived dressed as dinosaurs, Aussie PM Malcolm Turnbull, and politicians, and gave away Australian visas to climate deniers."

Although noisy and colourful and involving music, dancing and street theatre, the protest remained orderly and peaceful throughout. Like Greenpeace, with whom it often collaborates, 350 Aotearoa has a policy of non-violent direct action protest.

Next to Greenpeace NZ, 350 Aotearoa is arguably the best resourced anti-oil and gas issue motivated group currently active in New Zealand. 350 Aotearoa employs a full time Executive Director and a small team of support staff in Auckland. This is because 350 Aotearoa is part of the US-based climate group 350.org which provides

a lot of the funding 350 Aotearoa needs to operate here.

The group has an ongoing campaign against banks and which has the objective of convincing them to divest from any corporations connected to extracting or processing fossil fuels.

Meanwhile, on 09 May 350 Aotearoa protesters in Wellington delivered a giant-sized letter of protest to staff at the Australian High Commission (see photo below). The protests were part of a global divestment campaign running from 05 - 13 May initiated by 350 Aotearoa's parent organisation, 350.org.









Location of Greenpeace Ships

11 May

The current known locations of Greenpeace International's three ocean-going campaign vessels are:

Rainbow Warrior III

The 855 tonne Rainbow Warrior III has completed a long visit to several South American countries and has departed Brazil bound for Europe. At least one New Zealander is known to be on board the vessel and is holding the senior position of Oceans Campaigner (see image below).

Arctic Sunrise

The 949 tonne Arctic Sunrise remains tied up at the Dutch port of Delfzil undergoing a major refit.

The Esperanza

The 2,076 tonne Esperanza is currently off the Mauritanian coast, West Africa, bound for the Spanish port of Las Palmas.





On board the RW we are ready for the next campaign! We are heading now to Europe, and we invite you to join us

More information coming soon.. but for now... #PlasticIsNotFantastic!!!



QQ 83

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Location of Sea Shepherd Ships

11 May

The current known locations of Sea Shepherd's five ocean-going campaign vessels are:

Bob Barker

The 488 tonne Bob Barker continues to operate off the West African coast in conjunction with armed Liberian Coast Guard Forces to combat illegal fishing.

Brigitte Bardot

Sea Shepherd's fast chase vessel the 35m Brigitte Bardot continues with its

fundraising and outreach tour of the west coast of Italy. The vessel is currently docked at Capri at a berth provided free by the Italian Coast Guard in further recognition of the work Sea Shepherd does in cooperation with coast guard services of several nations.

Ocean Warrior

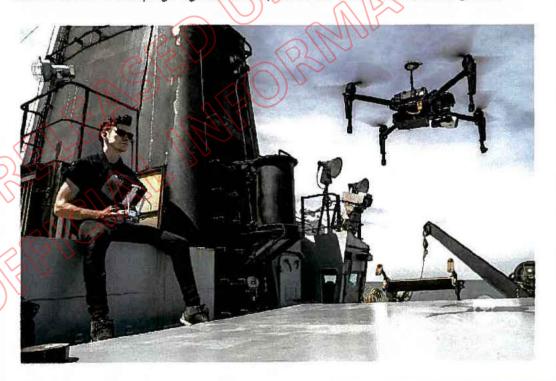
Sea Shepherd's newest vessel, the 439 tonne purpose-built Ocean Warrior, remains tied up at Fremantle.

Sam Simon

The 484 tonne Sam Simon, named after the creator of the popular 'Simpsons' cartoon series, continues to operate in the Gulf of California against illegal gill-net fishing, and where the crew are using drones to surveil suspect fishing vessels (see image below).

Steve Irwin

Sea Shepherd's largest vessel, the 1,017 tonne Steve Irwin, remains tied up at Melbourne, where the crew is undertaking maintenance on the vessel following the conclusion of its campaign against the Japanese Southern Ocean whaling fleet.



Standing Rock Protesters Invited to NZ 07 May

In Gisborne, the hapu-aligned anti-oil and gas issue motivated group Te Ikaroa says it invited a group of Sioux Indian protesters who were part of the recent Dakota Access Pipeline protests to visit them in New Zealand. The group says the visiting US activists "Spent the day with Te Ikaroa descendants today, talking story, and standing together for the wellbeing of our ancestral waters."

The visit came about after a small group of Gisborne activists travelled to North Dakota last year to support the protests against the pipeline.



Group Takes on District Councils

06 May

The issue motivated group Taranaki Energy Watch (TEW) says it is having to take on all three Taranaki district councils in a legal fight to get wider buffer zones around oil and gas installations.

TEW is being supported by another issue motivated group, Climate Justice Taranaki (CJT), which said last week in a message to supporters, "Taranaki Energy Watch is fighting hard to get the South Taranaki District Council to put in clear rules around the separation distances needed to minimize safety risks on neighbours and local communities.

"Instead of listening to TEW expert witnesses' advice, the council scrapped the separation distance requirements altogether. Since TEW lodged its appeal on the proposed district plan, all three Taranaki district councils have allied with the oil companies to fight the legal battle against TEW."

CJT claims local governments, at least in the case of Taranaki, are "happy to support

a dangerous, extractive petroleum industry that exploits our finite natural resources for corporate profits, to the extent of risking people's lives."

TEW, which describes itself as "Taranaki's community watchdog for oil and gas" claims that the South Taranaki District Council's new district plan offers not enough protection for people or the environment from hazards posed by the region's oil and gas industry.

Having failed to convince the district council last year to allow wider buffer zones between oil and gas installations and schools and residential dwellings, TEW is now challenging the council's district scheme in the Environment Court. TEW says it also wants tighter restrictions on landfarming and for seismic surveys subject to resource consents.



Kai and Korero With the Protesters

05 May

A presentation by four of the crew of the Ngāti Kahungunu iwi's Polynesian traditional sailing waka Te Matau a Māui which conducted a protest against the seismic survey vessel Amazon Warrior last month, attracted about 40 people when it was held at the Tokelau Community Centre, in the Wellington suburb of Naenae on 05 May (see photos below).

Advertised as a kai (food) and korero (talk) session, the four speakers are about to depart for Hawaii to join a traditional ocean voyaging canoe building programme. While they are travelling they say they will share, "The story of resistance by their peoples of Te Ikaroa Rāwhiti against oil giants Chevron and Statoil."

The evening was described as "An evening to discuss ocean and cultural protection with Polynesian voyagers" and follows an event held by the iwi last month at Victoria University's Law School on the subject of 'Resisting Oil Exploration'.







Group Claims Protest Has Forced Sale

04 May

The issue motivated group Oil Free Wellington has somewhat presumptuously claimed Todd Energy's decision to sell its retail energy company Nova Energy is "a feeble response to recent protests and public pressure."

The group's main spokesman released a statement this month saying, "Protests in Taranaki and Wellington this year and last year have drawn public attention to the sale of fracked gas through Nova Energy. Oil Free Wellington is wondering whether the Todd Corporation is trying to distance itself by selling its retail company while maintaining fracking operations in the Taranaki region."

He continued, "We condemn Genesis Energy for profiting from fracked gas which recent studies show is as bad for the climate as coal, due to leakage during the fracking process, and pose risks to locals and the local environment. The recent

fireball of gas during a botched flaring operation in April (at STOS' Oaonui Production Station) is just one example of the risks faced by Taranaki locals."

Oil Free Wellington claims that studies have shown that methane leakage has a severe effect on climate change, making the fuel source as bad as coal, and is "a regular problem with fracking operations."

Claiming, "The government must work with unions and workers to achieve a just transition for workers in the fossil fuel industry," Oil Free Wellington says it stands in solidarity with local groups in Taranaki, such as Taranaki Energy Watch and Climate Justice Taranaki, which are opposing fracking and further exploration in their region.



East Coast Hapu Complaint Taken to UN

03 May

The hapu-based issue motivated group Te Ikaroa recently took its grievances against Chevron and Statoil conducting seismic surveying off the East Coast of the North Island to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. The group's spokeswoman from Gisborne told the forum (see photo below) that exploration for oil and gas off the East Coast is violating indigenous rights. Reporting back to Te Ikaroa, she says she highlighted to the forum the effects of seismic testing and potential future oil extraction in the hapu's ancestral waters. "We are ocean peoples, we rely upon the delicately balanced ecosystems of our coastal waters for spiritual, cultural, emotional and physical sustenance," she is

reported as saying.

"Our ancestral genealogies link us to the marine populations within our territory. Seismic testing has been proven to disturb, injure and kill marine life."

She says she raised concerns about the (alleged) inability of Maritime New Zealand to tend to an oil spill at the potential drilling depths of up to 3000m.

She called upon the forum to support increased indigenous rights in relation to ocean governance, saying, "We consider the block offer process, the seismic surveying and the proposed drilling to all be clear violations of our rights as secured by the Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"The ocean is our unceded ancestral territory. Our sustained occupancy is primarily evidenced by our living voyaging traditions.

"We hold grave concerns for the ability to deliver on sustainable development goals in relation to our ancestral oceanic territories without a clear indigenous voice."

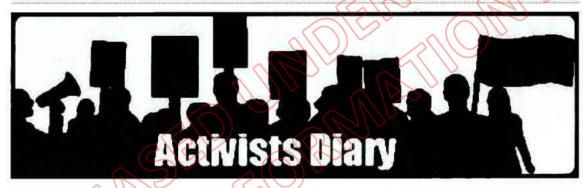
She says she called upon the forum to support establishing an indigenous cocommission to oversee matters of ocean governance at the UN, which would be discussed at the upcoming UN International Ocean Conference in New York.

She told the Gisborne Herald on her return to New Zealand that her statement was received well by the forum.

"They showed a lot of interest in what we had to say and the chairwoman referred to the statement in her summary of the day, saying that she thought an indigenous co-commission was a good idea," she said. "We will resist at every level. Statoil and Chevron need to get out."

On 06 May it was reported that the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had issued a draft report supporting Te Ikaroa's statement and calling upon the UN to acknowledge indigenous ocean rights and make way for improved indigenous ocean governance.





'Hands Across the Sands' Oil Protest

20 May

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"This years Hands Across the Sand is based around the theme of strength and unitywe will come back every year until our beautiful coastline is declared Oil Free." So far, 31 people have indicated on the group's Facebook page that they will be attending.



MAY 20

Hands Across the Sand 2017: We're still here

Public - Hosted by Oil Free Otautahi

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4. An event, threat or activity is very probable.	HIGH (Orange) 7-8	
5. An event, threat or activity is almost certain.	EXTREME (A-4-0) 9-10	Exceptional Response Maximum Protective Security measures are required to minimise vulnerabilities and risk.

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behalf of Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre <natex@tcil.co.nz>

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Josh Adams

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Oil & Gas Activism

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 21 May 2017

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The assessed level of threat from issue-motivated group (IMG) activism and protest directed towards oil and gas industry clients is currently assessed at **MODERATE** (Code Blue) for onshore operations, and also **MODERATE** for offshore in relation to vessels engaged in industry-related operations, particularly when in port.

On the east coast of the North Island where there is active issue motivated group opposition to offshore seismic surveying operations by the research vessel 'Amazon Warrior', the threat level is assessed as HIGH (Code Orange) requiring a heightened response for offshore operations and when vessels related to the 'Amazon Warrior' are in



port

This threat rating is in response to Greenpeace New Zealand announcing it has renewed protest against oil and gas companies in New Zealand through a campaign of direct action and civil disobedience and its current focus on opposition to seismic surveying operations. For further information about the threat assessment response, please refer to the explanation of Thompson+Clark's Risk Assessment Methodology at the end of this SitRep.

Explanation

This Situation Report (SitRep) summarizes recent relevant protests and activities by IMGs and activists opposed to operations both onshore and offshore by the oil and gas industry over the past week. It looks at risks to current Industry operations and events, and at trends and developments both domestically and overseas (where relevant). It is based on open and public sources of information.

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Claim GNS Drilling Has Sinister Motive

21 May

The issue motivated group Climate Justice Taranaki has claimed this week there are 'sinister motives' for Crown Research Institute GNS Science conducting offshore research drilling operations here later this year.

The group claims the year-long drilling programme using the US-based scientific research ship 'Joides Resolution' (see photo below), and which is designed to investigate five areas of sea floor concerns of global significance, is in fact part of GNS' desire to establish a methane hydrate extraction programme here.

The GNS drilling programme will include two projects 30km and 50km off the Gisborne coast; one of which will involve testing to establish if slow deformation of a large seafloor landslide off the Gisborne coast, is linked to the occurrence of gas hydrates. This appears to be the basis for the activists' belief.

However, according to CJT in a post on one of its Facebook pages over the weekend, "GNS is pushing for methane hydrate extraction and has been for years."

The post says, "There is supposed to be a ship coming later this year to test drill 25km off the coast of Gisborne, into the slow-slip seismic fault along the Hikurangi Trough where there are deposits of methane hydrates. Drilling into a major seismic

fault along a subduction zone of the Pacific Plate; what could go wrong indeed!"

This commentary was reinforced by another post by the group attacking GNS drilling on the alpine fault on the West Coast in the Westland Deep Fault Drilling Proj. This project has involved drilling nearly 900 metres down into the alpine fault at Whataroa, looking at how the fault looks and sounds before an earthquake.

Quite what the connection here has to do with oil and gas extraction is not made clear by CJT, which nevertheless posted a news media article about the Whataroa drilling project with the comment, "On land and offshore all the same to me...they gotta go!"



Survey Ship Accused of Breach

20 May

East Coast North Island activists monitoring the presence of the seismic survey vessel 'Amazon Warrior' have wrongly accused the vessel of extending its survey area in breach of its permit.

Issue motivated group social media has posted the results of amateur ship tracking efforts by the activists (see photo below) which shows it north of its permitted research area. There can of course be many reasons for this, and which the activists appear to have overlooked.

This image was 'backed up' by the activists showing two other images (also see below) of the permitted area the vessel has a licence to survey.

A post by the admin of the Facebook group 'Stop the Drilling on our East Coast' on 20 May said:

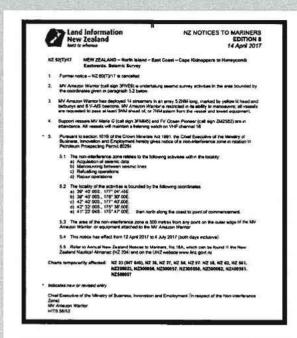
"AMAZON WARRIOR BLASTING OUTSIDE SURVEY ZONE. Look where they are now Coasties! According to the most recent (April) Notice to Mariners, Amazon Warrior is supposed to be surveying eastwards between Cape Kidnappers and the Honeycomb (Southern Wairarapa).

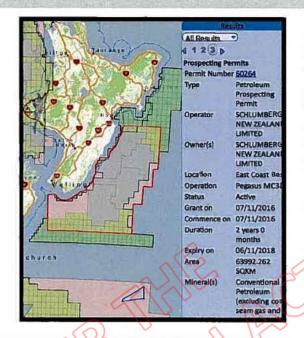
"Who gave Schlumberger permission to extend their survey area? Why haven't other mariners been informed there would be a huge survey ship blasting the seabed and towing a 6 nautical mile long seismic array of cables?

"The area outlined in red on the permit map is the Schlumberger prospecting permit boundary. The green blocks outlined in black off our East Coast are part of the 2017 Block Offers and prospecting or exploration permits are not due to be awarded in those areas until September."

What the post does not say however is that the activists tracking abilities does not give them the ability or the knowledge to know if the vessel is actually operating its seismic array or not.







Christchurch Oil and Gas Protest

20 May

For the seventh consecutive year, anti-oil and gas protesters in Christchurch at the weekend marked the international 'Hands Across the Sands' protest against offshore exploration and drilling.

As in previous years, the protest was held at New Brighton beach. This year's protest, as in past years, was organised by the issue motivated group Oil Free Otautahi (the Maori word for Christchurch).

Due to high tide, the protesters met on the grass adjacent to the New Brighton Pier, although they did venture onto the sand for a photo opportunity (see image below). Oil Free Otautahi is one of only two New Zealand anti-oil and gas groups to have kept the annual protest alive here (although it is popular overseas, particularly in America where it started).

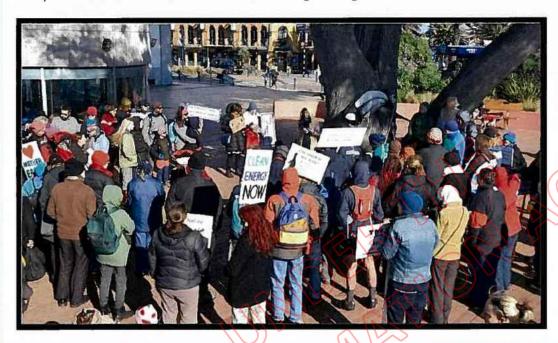
Another group which also marks the protest every year is based in Motueka and call themselves 'The Renewables'. This is a small group, which although it advertised it was holding a protest, has not released anything to suggest it actually went ahead.

The Christchurch protest was supported by another local issue motivated group which is no stranger to protest - 350 Aotearoa.

The night before the 'Hands Across the Sand' protest at New Brighton pier, 350 Aotearoa screened short films on New Zealanders' concerns about offshore exploration and the Deepwater Horizon disaster – "why it happened, and the mistakes made in dealing with it – and the causes of those mistakes," a

spokeswoman for the group said.

The organisers are claiming this year's New Brighton protest attracted between 150-200 protesters who made a human chain along the high tide mark.









Location of Greenpeace Ships

21 May

The current known locations of Greenpeace International's three ocean-going campaign vessels are:

Rainbow Warrior III

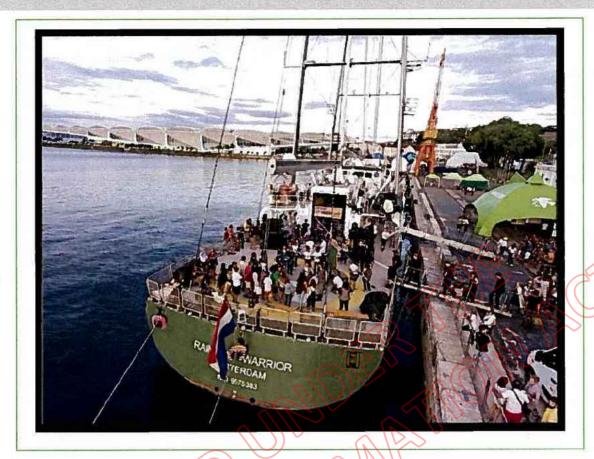
The 855 tonne Rainbow Warrior III (RWIII) is currently in the Atlantic headed for Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, where another of Greenpeace's campaign ships, the Esperanza, is currently tied up. At least one New Zealander is known to be on board the Rainbow Warrior and in a senior campaign leadership position on the vessel and is not working as crew. The captain of the RWIII has said in a recent Facebook post the vessel's next campaign will be in the Mediterranean and focussed on plastic waste. During the vessel's most recent port of call (Rio de Janeiro), the captain reported in the same Facebook post that in six days the vessel had 10,396 visitors tour the ship.

Arctic Sunrise

The 949 tonne Arctic Sunrise remains tied up at the Dutch port of Delfzil undergoing a major refit.

The Esperanza

The 2,076 tonne Esperanza has arrived at the Spanish port of Las Palmas and is currently tied up there in the inner harbour. The Esperanza is currently not advertising its next destination, having been patrolling the coast of West Africa for the past several months in an operation against illegal fishing. It is not currently known if the vessel will continued its West African campaign or go elsewhere.



Location of Sea Shepherd Ships

21 May

The current known locations of Sea Shepherd's five ocean-going campaign vessels are:

Bob Barker

The 488 tonne Bob Barker has concluded its operations off the West African coast in conjunction with armed Liberian Coast Guard Forces to combat illegal fishing and is currenty underway to Las Palmas.

Brigitte Bardot

Sea Shepherd's fast chase vessel the 35m Brigitte Bardot continues with its fundraising and outreach tour of the west coast of Italy. The vessel is currently docked at Lpari, Sciliy.

Ocean Warrior

Sea Shepherd's newest vessel, the 439 tonne purpose-built Ocean Warrior, remains tied up at Fremantle, Western Australia.

Sam Simon

The 484 tonne Sam Simon continues to operate in the Gulf of California against

illegal gill-net fishing.

Steve Irwin

Sea Shepherd's largest vessel, the 1,017 tonne Steve Irwin, remains tied up at Melbourne, where the crew will this weekend be joining Australian protesters taking part in the anti-oil and gas 'Hands Across the Sands' protest at St Kilda Beach (see image below).



Greenpeace Says Protesters Facing Jail

19 May

Greenpeace NZ in a post on its 'live feed' blog protesting against the operations of the seismic survey vessel 'Amazon Warrior' has claimed three of its protesters "face jail time" if convicted of obstructing the vessel by swimming in front of it off the Wairarapa coast last month.

In a post on the 'Taitu: the People vs Oil' live feed blog site, Greenpeace on 19 May said, "UPDATE: Russel, Sara and Gavin jumped into the sea in front of a giant oil exploration ship because it's necessary. If we don't act on climate we face a hellish existence. They did it because climate change threatens all of us, and burning oil drives climate change. We already have more oil than we can afford to burn.

Exploring for new oil is insane.

"But the three 'climate swimmers' have been charged by the Government and face jail time if convicted. We're going to fight it every step of the way, and we'll need your help so watch this space!"

Greenpeace NZ has also announced that the three protesters will now be making their first appearance on the charges in the Napier District Court on 31 May.

The three protesters, one of whom is Greenpeace NZ's Executive Director, were originally due to appear on 10 May, but this has been delayed. No public reason has been given for the delay either by Greenpeace or the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) which has brought the charges.

The photo below shows Greenpeace's protest vessel 'Taitu' sailing close to the 'Amazon Warrior' during last month's protests. The orange buoys that can be see on the 'Taitu's' upper deck were used by the swimmers to mark their position in the water.



First Nations Activists Lend Support

18 May

The East Coast hapu-aligned issue motivated group Te Ikaroa has for the past week been hosting a group of Canadian First Nation activists connected with the Standing Rock pipe line protest in the United States.

The Standing Rock protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline has been going for

over a year and supported by a small number of East Coast Maori who have travelled to the US to support them.

That support has been reciprocated this month when a group led by the son and the wife of the Standing Rock community's spiritual chief visited New Zealand and spent time with the crew and supporters of the Ngati Kahungunu double hulled waka 'Te Matau a Maui' which conducted a recent offshore protest against the seismic survey vessel 'Amazon Warrior' (see photo below).

The leader of the delegation told Maori Television they objected to everything about the 'Amazon Warrior' including its name because, "It is offensive to the indigenous people of the Amazon River to call it that."

The delegation's leader, who is a professor of indigenous studies at McMasters University, Ontario, said, "Maori came and supported Standing Rock, so we come over here to support Maori. The injustices indigenous people face, and the fight to retain culture, are the same all over the world."



Tax Free Status Criticised

17 May

Issue motivated groups such as Greenpeace NZ should not be allowed charity status, the Act Party has announced.

Commenting last week on the Charity Board's decision to deregister the issue motivated group Family First because of its non-charitable political activities, Act says the decision should be extended to other issue motivated groups such as Greenpeace NZ.

"Everyone knows that most of Family First's activities are political, pushing socially conservative policies. Greenpeace is the same, except they push left-wing environmentalism. Neither group should be getting a tax exemption, considering they ignore the day-to-day work of actually helping families or the environment," Act's leader went on the record as saying.

Act says if these groups do any genuine charity work, they should split that activity off into a separate division which can apply for charitable status independently.

"That would have the added benefit of ensuring people who donate to these groups know whether they're funding genuine charitable services, or just barefaced political activism," the party's leader says.

In August 2014, after a six year legal battle waged by Greenpeace NZ, the Supreme Court of New Zealand ruled in a landmark decision that organisations such as Greenpeace could engage in political activities in some cases and still retain their charitable status, if political activities are no more than ancillary to the group's other activities. That decision, however, endorsed the Court of Appeal's determination that activities that are illegal or unlawful preclude charitable status - something that Greenpeace may have to be careful about if its continues conduct deliberately illegal actions such as the recent protest against the 'Amazon Warrior.'



Claim Rigs Threaten Airport Terminal

16 May

Climate Justice Taranaki (CJT) is opposing the construction of a new airport termination at New Plymouth Airport because of the danger it claims the proximity of oil rigs to the travelling public and aircraft poses.

CJT claims it has evidence which raises serious questions about the risk assessment and business case behind the proposal by the New Plymouth District Council to build a new \$30 million airport terminal.

CJT's researcher claimed last week that, "There is no relief in thinking that the airport (oil) wells are not producing and are therefore safe. In fact, the likelihood of an abandoned well leaking increases over time. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has made it clear that once a well is abandoned and signed off, any leaks or other problems become the responsibility of the landowner."

As an example, she claims that last September she was "gobsmacked" when she landed at the New Plymouth Airport and there was, "A huge drill rig right there in front of the café...It was apparently there to plug old wells." (See photo below).

CJT is now demanding to know if the council took such risks and liability into account when conducting the risk analysis for the new airport terminal.

"What if an oil company decides to resume drilling, fracking, production or injection activities onsite? Is Council certain that the health and safety risks associated with the increase in aviation and passenger traffic that they hope will follow, are justified or manageable," the group's researcher has asked?

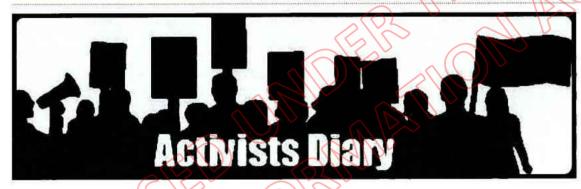
CJT claims these concerns underscores its campaign to have rules specifying the minimum separation distances required between hazardous facilities like wellsites and sensitive landuse like schools and airports where people congregate.

CIT is claiming that the council's business case on the proposed airport expansion totally ignores climate change and the financial risks and liability associated with it.

CJT is relying on an article published in the Taranaki Daily News on 11 October last year which said there were 140 abandoned oil and gas wells in Taranaki and their locations are not precisely known. Though they are mapped the maps are only accurate to within 20 metres.

See: https://tinyurl.com/m38lo3e



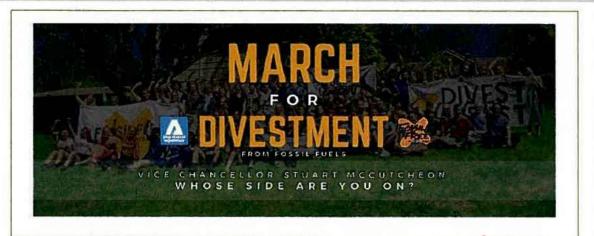


University March for Divestment

31 May

The issue motivated group Fossil Free UoA in conjunction with the AUSA (Auckland University Students' Association) have organised a protest march on 31 May against the University of Auckland to demand the Vice Chancellor actively support divestment from oil, coal and gas companies.

Fossil Free UoA has been trying unsuccessfully for several years to get the university to divest its investment funds from fossil fuel industries. The protest will be held on university grounds and will start at noon.



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Identifiable Security Risks	Alert Levels	Response Measures
An event, threat, or activity is very unlikely.	Low (Green) 1-2	Normal Response Routine Protective Security measures are applied appropriate to the circumstances
2. An event, threat, or activity is possible.	MODERATE (Blue) 3-4	
3, An event, threat or activity is likely.	ELEVATED (Yellow) 5-6	Heightened Response Sustainable Protective Security measures reflecting the nature of the risk without causing undue hardship or effecting operational capability.
4. An event, threat or activity is very probable.	HIGH (Orange) 7-8	
5. An event, threat or activity is almost certain.	EXTREME (Red) 9-10	Exceptional Response Maximum Protective Security measures are required to minimise vulnerabilities and risk.

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Oil & Gas Activism



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Threat Level

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