



**Submission on the Transport
and Infrastructure
Committee's
Maritime Transport (MARPOL)
Annex VI) Amendment Bill**

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Introduction

1. Nelson Marlborough Health (Nelson Marlborough District Health Board) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Transport and Infrastructure Committee Select Committee's *Maritime Transport (MARPOL) Annex V1) Amendment Bill*.
2. NMH makes this submission in recognition of its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000, the Health Act 1956, and the Biosecurity Act 1993.
3. This submission sets out particular matters of interest and concern to NMH around environmental and public health matters.

General support

4. NMH continues to support the Government to accede to Annex VI regulations for the prevention of air pollution in ports and harbours. NMH supports this Bill that makes marine protection rules in relation to Annex VI and gives the ability to detain ships that are in contravention of Annex VI requirements. Annex VI is considered to be the primary international regulatory mechanism for mitigating maritime greenhouse gases (GHG) and other air pollutants. As noted in our 2019 submission to the Ministry of Transport, New Zealand is very reliant on shipping with 99.5% of trade (by weight) being shipped by sea, and the number and size of ships is increasing.¹ The adoption of the Bill will enable New Zealand to better able to regulate emissions that are harmful to public health. Reduced emissions of harmful air pollutants will result in reduced adverse public health effects (and costs), including premature deaths and reduced adverse effects on ecosystems (e.g. acidification, deposition of toxins such as heavy metals and dioxins). In addition, reduced greenhouse gas emissions are a tangible action to combat climate change (an issue of planetary urgency).

¹ Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ (2018) New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series: *Our Air 2018*

Conclusion

5. NMH thanks the Transport and Infrastructure Committee for the opportunity to comment on the *Maritime Transport (MARPOL) Annex V1) Amendment Bill*

Yours sincerely



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