

# PORTAL

JULY 2025



## UP FRONT



We're a month into our new financial year, and although we're still working through the final details of our 2024-25 performance, I'm incredibly proud of the resilience of our business in what is becoming an increasingly dynamic and challenging economic environment.

We now have our eyes firmly on the year ahead, and while change is often difficult and forces us out of our comfort zone, change also encourages introspection from which come growth and opportunity.

Such has been the case at Port Taranaki, where reductions in trade, particularly energy trade, have made us look at our business and investigate how we can adapt, attract new business, and grow to remain a key asset for the Taranaki region and national economy.

We're focused on becoming leaner, building our cross-team capabilities through specific training, providing infrastructure that supports future opportunities across a range of sectors, and reducing operating costs to create the capacity for investment as opportunities develop.

We envisage our future multipurpose facility supporting new business opportunities, such as offshore wind production, LNG imports, oil and gas field decommissioning, mining, and cruise, while also supporting the traditional sectors of oil and gas, forestry, and agriculture.

The increasingly fragile energy industry, with the decline in gas reserves at its epicentre, is impacting every aspect of society, causing power price rises, industry production cuts and, in some instances, industry closures.

We were pleased with the Budget announcement that the Government will invest \$200 million in the energy industry for oil and gas exploration. We hope this will provide industry confidence, encourage exploration, and yield results, helping bolster national energy resilience, security and affordability.

Like energy, transport is also crucially important for our business and Taranaki. Connectivity is vital for 'the regions' – connectivity with national markets and supply chains – and the roads are the arteries that supply life to the likes of Taranaki.

The 6km Mt Messenger bypass project edges closer to completion, and we look forward to it opening, enabling heavy transport to have a quicker and safer route between the top half of the North Island and New Plymouth.

This will open the region to potential new revenue streams and increased business opportunities, which we hope to tap in to.

Our change in focus has also prompted us to

revisit our business mission, broadening it to 'Enabling trade, fuelling regional growth'. We believe this encapsulates our new direction, reinforces our importance to the regional economy, and perfectly supports our overall vision of being 'The Pride of Taranaki'.

In times of change it's important to communicate with the key people that drive the business – our team members – understand how they are feeling, learn what we are doing well (and not so well!), and where we can improve.

We recently undertook our annual AHOY survey of our team, which gives us a 'pulse check' of the business and provides invaluable feedback.

We were thrilled at increased engagement and that team members believe Port Taranaki has a strong health and safety commitment, has a positive work environment, and provides effective communication of health and safety risks.

Finally, at the end of June, a key member of the Executive Leadership Team, general manager infrastructure John Maxwell, retired. John made a significant contribution during his five years at Port Taranaki – providing experience, leadership, and knowledge that will be missed.

We wish John well in his retirement.

Ngā mihi nui

Simon Craddock  
Chief Executive

# COMMUNITY

## Long-term giving prompts port support

*One key long-term Taranaki asset has joined with another to help create a thriving Taranaki for generations to come.*

Port Taranaki, which has supported the community and generated regional economic activity for more than 140 years, has jumped on board as an operational supporter of Taranaki Foundation, which invests monetary gifts and bequests and uses the income generated to make modest grants to charitable projects that align with the donors' wishes.

Taranaki Foundation operational supporters invest time, resources, expertise and talents to help the foundation carry out its work.

Port Taranaki general manager commercial Ross Dingle says supporting the Foundation aligns with the port's long commitment to the region and its people.

"We are owned by the community through the Taranaki Regional Council,

providing annual dividends, and are a key economic asset for the region, so we look to support the community when and where we can.

"We are proud to support Taranaki Foundation and the important role the Foundation plays in helping build a better future for our region. Our support reflects our ongoing commitment to community wellbeing, growth and development."

Taranaki Foundation was launched in 2016 to enable people to donate to their favourite local causes or contribute to a general fund. Through prudent investment, the capital is protected and left to grow indefinitely, while the income it earns is used for charitable grants.

In the 2023-24 year, \$235,256 was granted to the community, bringing the total distributed since its inception to \$1 million. To the end of May 2025, Taranaki Foundation endowment funds under management had grown to more than \$11m.



Laura Leadbetter (Taranaki Foundation), Ross Dingle (Port Taranaki), Theresa Cayley (TF), and Josh Hickford (TF).

"The support of organisations such as Port Taranaki plays a vital role in enabling the Foundation to carry out its work in the community," says Taranaki Foundation chief executive Josh Hickford.

"We are incredibly grateful for their belief in our work and their investment in our region's future."

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## New app puts focus on fatigue

*Port Taranaki is taking a scientific approach to one of the key concerns of all ports – fatigue.*

The port has introduced a fatigue management app called Fatiguefit4Duty, which has been scientifically developed and uses information supplied by the worker to produce a fatigue risk assessment in real time.

"The nature of ports and shipping means that for many of the Port Taranaki team, work can take place around the clock," says Port Taranaki operations planner Kurt Biesiek.

"Consequently, fatigue is a really important issue, particularly as our operations teams – wharf services, launches, tugs, pilots, and comms and security – work with and alongside machinery, vessels, and open water. If not managed effectively, fatigue has the potential to result in a serious incident."

Kurt, who is on the Port Industry

Association panel that reviews fatigue guidelines at New Zealand ports, says the app is the first step in Port Taranaki's drive to increase its knowledge of fatigue, and improve its fatigue management systems.

"Fatigue regularly comes up in our annual staff survey as one of the most important issues for our work environment, and the company is focused on using evidence-based information to help develop fatigue management systems for the port."

The app takes information inputted by the team member about hours of sleep, wake time, and the start and finish times of work, as well as a self-assessment of their alertness.

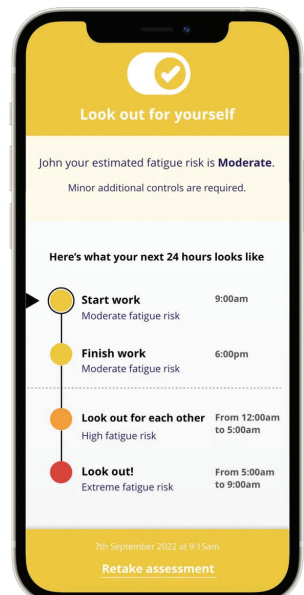
"It learns about your patterns and uses a biomathematical model to assess your fatigue risk likelihood at a specific time," says Kurt.

"As it's a voluntary tool, it's led by the team member. It empowers them to look at their sleep, work and other things that

might influence their sleep and rest, and make informed decisions.

"If the app indicates they're at a higher risk of fatigue at a specific time, then they can talk to their supervisor about how to manage it, such as taking a break during a shift, putting a work management plan in place, or even the likes of taking a taxi home rather than driving."

The results are private to the team member, with management receiving general accumulated monthly information, used for assessing the effectiveness of fatigue management processes.



# ENERGY

## Gas investment 'confidence boost' for sector

*A \$200 million Government investment in new gas fields is a timely confidence boost for an industry that remains vital to New Zealand's energy mix, says Port Taranaki chief executive Simon Craddock.*

Resources Minister Shane Jones made the announcement following the May Budget, and said the investment "signals a willingness" by the Government to take a stake in new gas field developments that feed the domestic market to address sovereign risk.

"Natural gas will continue to be critical in delivering secure and affordable energy for New Zealanders for at least the next 20 years," Mr Jones said.

Operating New Zealand's premier energy port in New Zealand's premier energy region, Simon Craddock says energy security measures that support business, industry and homes are much-needed at a time when gas reserves are declining.

"Just in the past year, we've seen that

lower gas production during dry hydro years impacts every aspect of society, causing power price rises, industry production cuts, and industry closures," he says.

"It's incredibly important that New Zealand maintains energy security, resilience and affordability, and gas is a key component to achieving that as we transition to lower carbon energy solutions."

Simon sees opportunities for Port Taranaki through the possible rejuvenation of offshore energy activity on the back of the Government's investment.

"While it's still a little soon to understand what impact on the industry this will have, it is a confidence boost – one that we hope

translates to renewed exploration and production activity and ongoing business and economic activity for the region and Port Taranaki.

"Port Taranaki has played a key role over many decades in providing support to offshore exploration, production and maintenance, and we're ready and able to continue that support – illustrated by our investment in a third tug, Karoo, and our \$16m investment in the Newton King Tanker Terminal firewater system."



# TOURISM

## Cruise work continues despite downturn

*Taranaki is in a great position to take advantage of a rebound in the cruise industry, and Port Taranaki is ready to help push the region's case.*

"All the cruise visitors and vessels that have come to Taranaki really love their time here," Port Taranaki general manager commercial Ross Dingle says.

"They've marked the region very highly in terms of the visitor experience and attractions, and engagement with the community, so we're very confident we're providing a great product and Taranaki is seen as a fantastic place to visit."

There has been a sharp reduction in scheduled cruise ship visits to New Zealand for the 2025-26 season, as increasing costs and biosecurity regulation pressures impact the industry.

Taranaki has one vessel confirmed for next summer – the 294m

Coral Princess, which has capacity for 2,000 guests and 900 crew. The vessel will visit the region on Wednesday, 25 February 2026.

"The majority of cruise vessels that come to New Zealand travel along the east coast, with a smaller number then coming over to the west coast. So, if overall numbers are down then Taranaki, as a west coast region, tends to suffer more," Ross says.

"There's still the possibility of additions

or unscheduled visits, such as if there is congestion or weather issues at other ports, and we'll be ready and available if the call goes out for a replacement port of call during the season."

While the region's west coast location can be a difficulty, Ross believes it also has its advantages.

"We're the closest port to the east coast of Australia, so can be an entry or exit point for vessels. We're also relatively unknown, and we know cruise passengers and cruise liners are always looking for new and interesting places to visit.

"Along with Venture Taranaki, we'll be attending the New Zealand Cruise Conference this August to help promote the region, strengthen our relationships with the cruise industry, and connect with industry experts to understand how we can capitalise on future growth."





## John swaps hi-vis for grandkids

*It's now grandchildren, chores and travel rather than work colleagues, wharves and projects for John Maxwell.*

Port Taranaki's general manager infrastructure retired in late June and before he'd even had time to whip off his hi-vis vest he was already underway in his new 'job'.

"Before I finished up, my wife and I made an activities and chores list – from looking after the grandkids, to working on our lifestyle property, overseas adventures and continuing to volunteer as chair of the Taranaki Automobile Association (AA) council and as a member of the national AA council," he says.

"We've got a couple of bike rides and a tramp planned for next summer, and planning overseas trips next year, so there's plenty to keep me busy."

John's more than five years at Port Taranaki were also full, as he played a key role in ensuring the port's infrastructure was fit-for-purpose for operations and met customers' needs.

Having spent his early work life at Ballance Agri-Nutrients Ltd, at Kapuni, before moving to Mt Maunganui, where he was the company's general manager operations, John initially came to Port Taranaki for a short-term Newton King Tanker Terminal (NKTT) risk assurance project. He then joined as the general manager infrastructure.

"The risk assurance work gave me a good insight into the port – I liked the way it operated and the people who worked here. When the infrastructure management role came up, I thought it fitted with my skills and background and was a logical next step.

"In terms of infrastructure, the biggest difference between the likes of Ballance and Port Taranaki, is that the port is an owner, rather than owner-operator of most of the infrastructure – we provide the infrastructure that facilitates customers' operations and trade."

During his time at the port, John was involved in a number of key projects, including a large asbestos removal management programme, and the design, build and commissioning of a state-of-the-art \$16 million freshwater firewater system on the NKTT.

"The firewater project had stalled a bit for several years, so it was very satisfying to

get that approved and built, and to see it operational. It will help protect and future-proof the NKTT for decades to come," he says.

"The asbestos management work was also very important. Many port structures and buildings were built during the era when asbestos was used, so we worked steadily through a programme to have it removed safely.

"Overall project delivery was also a particular focus. We established a project management office for port projects, and since it's been operational, a number of projects have been delivered on time and under budget, which is very pleasing."

John is also proud of the relationships he built while at Port Taranaki.

"I really enjoyed helping the professional development of members of the team I worked with, and I'm very proud of our relationship-building with Ngāti Te Whiti hapū – it's something I value as we are both here for many generations."

Ensuring infrastructural and operational safety was also a continual focus, harking back to his risk assurance work on the NKTT.

"Moving the safety focus from 'slips, trips and falls' to process safety – the high consequence, low likelihood event of a serious port incident where death is possible. The port is a high-risk environment so ensuring we have systems in place to best prevent those catastrophic events is crucial," he says.

As he settles into retirement, John says he'll keep a close eye on the port and is optimistic for its future.

"Port Taranaki is an important asset for the region and New Zealand, particularly

regarding energy, so it's vital the port remains at the forefront of people's minds for future energy projects and is enabled to be part of the long-term solution."



### Port Taranaki Limited

#### DRAFT STATEMENT OF CORPORATE INTENT

In accordance with the Port Companies Act 1988, our Company's Draft Statement of Corporate Intent for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2028 is now available and can be viewed/downloaded from our website [www.porttaranaki.co.nz](http://www.porttaranaki.co.nz).