



**Auckland Regional  
Holdings**

Level 3, 21 Pitt Street  
PO Box 105 048  
AUCKLAND CITY  
Telephone: 09 303 9460  
Fax: 09 303 9461

## Media Release

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### **Tauranga withdrawal not an end to merger scrutiny**

Auckland Regional Holdings, the owner of Ports of Auckland Limited, says Port of Tauranga's withdrawal from proposed merger talks does not signal an end to the matter.

"This gives us a breather to give time for full and proper consideration of the issues without the distraction of inappropriate time constraints," says Judith Bassett, the Chair of Auckland Regional Holdings (ARH).

Mrs Bassett agrees with the comment of Port of Tauranga Chair, John Parker, that "when the opportunity to merge arises in the future" both companies' owners will be ready and able to participate.

Mrs Bassett says while ARH was unable to meet Port of Tauranga's deadline of today for a definitive "yes/no" decision, it is continuing with the analysis that is required before the Board can give an answer to the merger proposition.

"Port of Tauranga has generously offered us the opportunity to indicate a timetable for resumption of talks between the two owners," says Mrs Bassett.

"Our advisors are still working through the detail and the more quality information we receive the better position the ARH board will be in to decide one way or the other on the merger proposal," says Mrs Bassett.

In the meantime, it's business as usual for both companies.

**ENDS**

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no further comment from Auckland Regional Holdings on this matter other than this statement.