



# Northport

Northport Limited



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**[www.northport.co.nz](http://www.northport.co.nz)**



The location of Northport makes it the northern most multi-purpose port in New Zealand and the closest port to the majority of New Zealand's international markets.

Northport Limited owns a three-berth facility at Marsden Point together with considerable backup land. Although primarily for the export of forest products, the terminal is a flexible facility catering for large multi-purpose vessels.

Marsden Point is a deep-water port served by a good road connection. Northland as a province, has much to offer international markets particularly in Forestry, Processed Timber Products, Agriculture, Horticultural Products and Cement that are all exported through this port.

## **Background**

The Northland Harbour Board, the controlling authority at the time, first proposed a container port facility at Marsden Point in the late 1960's. A futuristic drawing was published but it was not until 1976 that the proposal was moved ahead when the first of several environmental reports was written.

As part of that first report, a hydraulic model was constructed and tidal flow data was fed into it to give a realistic model of the effects on the harbour at the site of the proposed port. During the 1980's the plan faltered but it was not until the Northland Port Corporation was formed in 1988 that it gained momentum again.

Northland's forestry industry was slowly increasing in production and it was the catalyst for the building of the new port. For economic reasons the port had to be available at a time when cargo volumes would provide income to make the project viable. Much hydrographic data and environmental information was collected in preparation for Resource Management consents, which were applied for in 1995.

Final consents for a two-berth port were granted in 2000 and the Northland Port Corporation then entered into a joint venture with Port of Tauranga to form Northport Ltd.

Construction of the new port facility commenced towards the end of 2000. The first berth opened for business in June 2002. In late 2004 further consents were obtained for the construction of the third and fourth berths, with construction of the third berth commencing in late 2005.

In April 2007 all cargo operations were transferred to Marsden Point, which meant the closure of Port Whangarei to commercial shipping. The new berth was completed in October 2007 when it became available to be used for cargo operations. The construction of the fourth berth to the east will not take place until cargo volumes make it viable.

## **Northport Ltd**

Northport began trading in July 2002 as the port operating company when it took over the port activities of the Northland Port Corporation at both Marsden Point and Port Whangarei. With the closure of Port Whangarei to commercial shipping, all cargo operations have transferred to Marsden Point.

In April 2003, Northport formed a joint venture, North Tugz, with Ports of Auckland to provide Pilotage and Tug services for ships arriving at Marsden Point at Northport's berths and the New Zealand Refining Co. jetties.

## **Import/Export**

There were 157 ship calls to Northport last year spending a total of 245 days alongside the wharves; the total cargo handled was some 1.35 million revenue tonnes.

The export cargo was made up of Logs heading to ports in Japan, Korea, China and India, Woodchip to Japan, LVL (Laminated Veneer Lumber) to Australia and the Middle East, Triboard and Veneer from JNL Kaitaia heading to Japan and the Philippines, Kiwifruit to Japan and Europe, and Bagged Cement to Tahiti.

Import cargoes were Fertiliser from North Africa, Clinker from Japan and Gypsum from Thevenard, as well as Coal from Port Kembla all heading to Portland for Golden Bay Cement.

Northport now has three berths available for handling dry cargo vessels, with a total wharf length of 570 metres. There is 13.0 metres of water available at Chart Datum at berths 1/2 and 14.5 metres at berth 3. The Northport facility totals 58 hectares of land, with over 30 hectares now paved and being used for cargo operations. There is over 180 hectares of land outside the port available for port related ventures to set up and operate from.

## **Port Expansion**

Based on berth and storage area occupancy, Northport has resource consent for a fourth berth and potential to expand to a fifth berth if/when required – with woodchip volumes doubling there could be a vessel on the berth every two weeks for 3-4 days at a time – this could be the catalyst for the fourth berth extension.

The Port area totals 58 hectares, some 30 hectares currently paved with another 28 hectares of storage available including the fourth berth reclaim area (3-5 hectares). An additional 5 hectares outside the main gate is available to Northport for port use.

Northland Port Corporation has 62 hectares of land adjacent to Northport available for Port related businesses, with some 120 plus hectares in behind this area zoned as commercial zone four.

Our facility is world class and the envy of many a port company; it provides the Northland businesses and community with a gateway to the world and will continue to assist with the regions growth.



## North Tugz Ltd

*Provider of pilotage and tug services to Northport the oil industry*

In 1999 Ports of Auckland won the contract to provide pilotage and tug services for the oil industry at Marsden Point at the New Zealand Refining Co's Jetties.

Ports of Auckland provided the marine services in Auckland and its marine division was extended to provide the same service at Marsden Point. The new service commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1999 and was called North Tugz.

A new tug, Takahiwai (50t bollard pull) was built in Whangarei and together with the Hauraki, an existing Auckland tug, they formed the basis of the new service. The other craft used to make up the fleet were Manukau, Busby and Marsden. The Manukau and Busby were later sold.

With the formation of Northport as a joint venture between Northland Port Corporation and Port of Tauranga and the development of the new port at Marsden Point, Northport and Ports of Auckland decided to form a joint venture company to provide the pilotage and tug services to both the oil industry and the general cargo berths at Whangarei and Marsden Point. The joint venture company commenced operations on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003.



## **Whangarei Harbour**

There are two ports within the confines of Whangarei Harbour. These are at Marsden Point and Portland. Marsden Point has two oil jetties which serve The New Zealand Refining Company. Northport Limited has a three-berth facility up harbour of these jetties.

Portland has one jetty which serves the Golden Bay Cement Company cement works. Currently one specialised bulk cement vessel uses this facility on a regular basis.

## **Northport**

The Port at Marsden Point is situated in the province of Northland approximately 170km north of Auckland, New Zealand's largest city.

Marsden Point            35° 50.0'S, 174° 30'E – Chart NZ 5214

Time Zone                    GMT + 12 hours (NZST)  
Daylight saving is applicable during summer months between October & March (GMT + 13 hrs)

## **Harbour Authority**

The Harbourmaster  
Northland Regional Council  
Postal Address:            Private Bag 9021, Whangarei, New Zealand  
Phone:                        (09) 438 4639  
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## **Port Operating Company**

Northport Limited, Ralph Trimmer Drive, Marsden Point

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