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I strongly support New Zealand's accession to MARPOL Annex V1 because it will:

Complement the zero carbon bill (soon to be enacted) and other New Zealand legislation focussed on the country meeting its obligations resulting from the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Paris 2015.

This point cannot be overstated; New Zealand indeed the world's nations are already in catch up mode, if we are to restrict the planet to a 2 degree centigrade rise by 2100.

Hold ship operators to a higher ecological and environmental standard.

MARPOL will automatically incorporate increasingly stringent standards on emissions of toxic gases and particulates in the near to medium term that as an additional benefit will buy time for New Zealand ports to construct plug-in facilities.

Lead domestically to the operational upgrade of marine engines and other equipment to put New Zealand on a level playing field with other treaty members sooner rather than later.

This will lead to further acknowledgment internationally of New Zealand's intention to be the leader in climate change action to save and safeguard the planet and its biosphere.

Increase the standing of New Zealand's international maritime lawyers in contract negotiations with overseas shipping corporations.

It is only natural for those lawyers to be somewhat frustrated in the current situation.

Reduce the morbid effects of toxic pollution on families and other local port inhabitants, port staff, university students, and other city workers.

The toxic emissions of gases and particulates have been known for decades. Ports around Los Angeles have been taking action since the 1990s on such pollution, Sydney Port has pollution extraction technology in place as does Hong Kong. Embarrassingly, New Zealand is a late starter.

Reduce the toxic burden of having used the atmosphere as a sewer for shipping's toxic emissions, and the overall environmental ecology including marine, for decades.

The financial and economic costs have been traded off as short term gains and profits for the relative few against the long term costs that are likely to be incalculable, and lives blighted by chronic sickness and cut short as a result of breathing this toxic soup. Chronic lung disease, strokes, with links to Alzheimer's, and much greater risks of dementia continue to be pointed out by medical researchers and specialists. Particulates found in the placenta have severe impact on embryos in the womb resulting in underweight births and babies with smaller than normal head measurements with consequential detrimental effects on brain morphology and IQ.

Reduce the financial burden on the New Zealand Tax payer for the ongoing and long term treatment in the health system relating to the various maladies referred to in the preceding paragraph.

*The NZ Treasury statement on the 2019 budget is New Zealand's first **well being budget** and includes and embeds social and environmental measurement on New Zealanders living standards, health and other pertinent information including child poverty. It incorporates the concept of altruism and looking forward for 10, 20, 30 years to living, social and health outcomes for New Zealanders in critical aspects of society.*

MARPOL Annex V1 ties in perfectly with this departure from the traditional budget in which a country's social and health outcomes are implied in a number based on GDP measurement. Participants in the recent SFR debate – More than GDP What matters more in life at the World Economic Forum in Davos in which New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Adern, took part applauded the leadership taken by New Zealand.

New Zealand cannot afford to delay accession to MARPOL Annex V1.

The benefits of this formal acceptance will be seen in the joining together of our thoughts in recognising the connections with social well being and improved health outcomes for New Zealanders, reduced health costs at a national level and consequent lower burden on the taxpayer thereby reinforcing the improvements made to the budget process, and in helping meet New Zealand's climate obligations agreed at Paris in 2015.

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