

From: Peter Healey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 January 2026 11:08 am
To: Registrar
Subject: NPD/Gull - submission

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I wish to submit my 2 cents worth on the proposed NPD/Gull merger.

I believe this merger if approved will be adverse for consumers. I base this on observations of my local Whanganui petrol market.

NPDs entry to the local market caused an across the board reduction in petrol prices and it is generally the lowest cost supplier here. When Gull changed ownership a few years ago its prices rose to be similiar to Z, Mobil and BP and prices were higher here than Bulls which is 50km away. Based on that I expect Gull may pressure NPD to increase its prices, should the merger go ahead.

I think NPD will better serve Whanganui as a stand alone entity and encourage the Comcom to not allow the merger to proceed.

Peter Healey
Whanganui