

## Memorandum

**To** S Reynolds, Scientific Officer; GK Bedford, Director-Environment Quality  
**From** K Giles, Scientific Officer [Marine Biology]  
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### Mud flats adjacent to Patea Freezing Works

Following a fire and possible asbestos contamination on 6 February 2008, I visited the mud flats adjacent to the old Patea Freezing Works site on Thursday 8 May 2008, at 7:30, around two hours after low tide.

The mud flats are located directly to the south of the now derelict Patea Freezing Works site, with several small streams flowing from the site to the mud flats.

The upper mud flats contained a variety of different types of plants and a number of birds.

There were numerous crab holes across the entire mud flats, including the higher areas (Photograph 1).



**Photograph 1** Crab holes on mud flats

The mud snail, *Amphibola crenata*, was abundant across the lower areas of mud flat. Photograph 2 shows large numbers of the snails in one of the small streams leaving the Patea Freezing Works site.



**Photograph 2** The mud snail, *Amphibola crenata*

Life on the mud flats does not appear to have been affected by the events at the Patea Freezing Works, with healthy numbers of plants, birds and other animals present.

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