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HERALD NEWS

Survey questions 750 – and there's....

'Overwhelming' support for mining ban Bill

"Overwhelming support" for Panmure MP Judith Tizard's Bill to ban mining on conservation areas on the Coromandel Peninsula has buoyed Coromandel Peninsula Watchdog.

A telephone survey, carried out by UMR Insight, asked 750 adults whether they supported or opposed a ban on mining of areas administered by the Department of Conservation.

This showed that 62% of the respondents supported the ban, 23% opposed it and 15% did not know.

Highest support came from Gisborne (86%) and Hawkes Bay (76%) where 1% and 5% of the survey were taken.

In the Waikato/Thames area, 60% of the respondents supported the bill, 29%

opposed and 11% had no opinion.

"With such overwhelming public support for the new law, the Government should abandon its futile attempt to block the passage of the bill, encourage the select committee to call for submissions immediately and move quickly to ensure the bill becomes law," Watchdog spokesman Mark Tugendhaft said.

The "decisive support" for the Coromandel mining ban would be a big shock to the Government, he said.

"The Coromandel is one of New Zealand's most popular and fastest growing vacation spots and support for its protection from mining must be one of the most popular issues in the country.

"With an MMP election looming, politicians will ignore the message in this poll at their peril," Mr Tugendhaft said.