



Letter: Ferry captain was wrongly prosecuted

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OPINION: The statement of intent on Maritime New Zealand's website advises of its mandate to make life at sea safer.

There are also references to its mission of working together (presumably with those in the industry) by using the values of integrity, commitment and respect.

These are noble ideals but are in stark contrast with their ill- advised decision to prosecute Cook Strait ship-master Captain John Henderson for a perceived failure on his part to fulfil his responsibilities as master of a ship.

As an important component of the New Zealand shipping industry, master mariners can consider themselves lucky that people still exist like Judge Tom Broadmore, who have the experience and common sense to recognise when a case such as this is weak in that it lacks any evidence of danger, and inevitably becomes a sheer waste of taxpayers' money.

It can only be hoped that Maritime New Zealand will be reviewing the case it brought against Captain Henderson and in future will resolve any similar incidents in a more circumspect manner, thereby saving itself further embarrassment.

When exposed for public viewing, statements of intent, mandates and mission statements all do have meaning and become very relevant in their execution.

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NZ Company of Master Mariners

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