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MEDIA RELEASE

## Lyttelton Port Company wins National Safety Award for Drone Innovation

For immediate release

### Lyttelton Port's drone technology earns Top National Safety Award

Lyttelton Port Company (LPC) has won a top honour at the 2026 Safeguard New Zealand Workplace Health and Safety Awards for its use of drone technology to remove people from high-risk work.

LPC received the Work-Related Safety Award for the Best Initiative to address a Work Safety Risk at a gala dinner and awards ceremony at Auckland's Viaduct Event Centre on 23 June.

Lyttelton Port Company Chief Health and Safety Officer Steven Barclay said the award reflects a workforce-led initiative and a strong team effort across the business.

"This is a real success story for our teams. The idea came from our operational people, who saw an opportunity to eliminate work at height risk and worked together to make it happen."

Drone technology, equipped with high-resolution cameras, has been deployed across multiple safety use cases in hazardous port operations, including container roof inspections, coal stockpile monitoring, container terminal pavement inspections and cruise berth seawall rock surveys.

"The use of drone technology is changing how we work, giving us better visibility, helping us manage risk more effectively, and creating new opportunities to improve safety across the business."

At LPC's MidlandPort in Rolleston, thousands of container roof inspections have been completed using drones over the past eight months. This has significantly reduced the need for people to work at height, improving both safety and efficiency.

Barclay said the initiative shows how innovation and practical thinking can transform safety outcomes.

"When we get it right, and our workforce and teams are joined up to eliminate risk, we see real change. This award is recognition of that approach."

In announcing LPC as the winner, the award citation noted that 'traditional ground-level analysis didn't always reflect how work was actually done', and that 'drones provided perspectives otherwise not obtained, transforming both safety outcomes and operational assurance and stimulating new use cases'.

"We are very grateful for the recognition, and I know our teams will take real pride in what they have achieved," said Barclay.

The awards were held in association with WorkSafe New Zealand and ACC and recognise leading initiatives that improve workplace health and safety performance across New Zealand.

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Other finalists in the 'Work-Related Safety Category' included Air New Zealand, Fonterra Darfield and Naylor Love North.

LPC plans to expand the use of drone technology across operations to continue removing risk.

### **ENDS**

Photo 1. Lyttelton Port Company awarded Work-Related Safety Award for the Best Initiative to address a Work Safety Risk at awards ceremony at Auckland's Viaduct Event Centre on 23 June.

Photo 2. Steven Barclay, LPC, Chief Health and Safety Officer, accepted the Work-Related Safety Award for the Best Initiative to address a Work Safety Risk

Photo 3. Matthew England (left) and Jarrod Tutbury (right) operate the drone at LPC's MidlandPort in Rolleston.

### **ENDS**

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