Group ID: 422

Consent name: Fulton Hogan - Roydon Quarry

Consent number: CRC192408, CRC192409, CRC192410, CRC192411, CRC192412, CRC192413, CRC192414, RC185627

Name: Ben Seddon-Smith

Care of:

Contact by email: Yes

Is a trade competitor: No

Directly affected: Yes

Consent support/hearing details

- CRC192408: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- CRC192409: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- CRC192410: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- CRC192411: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- CRC192412: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- CRC192413: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- CRC192414: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- RC185627: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
Reasons comment:
I live in the affected community and am highly concerned with the effects that the proposed activity will have on the environment

Consent comment:
A. Block the proposed activity, or B. Allow the proposed activity as long that any methods that have been proposed to reduce impact to community and environment are guarantied with firm penalties if breached
Submission on the proposed Roydon Quarry

Submitter details:

Benjamin Seddon-Smith

Position: against the proposed development

I stand against the development of the proposed quarry to extract aggregate from the site and back-fill for many reasons.

Dust

Digging up proposed area for agree gate will likely throw lots of dust into the air, along with the dust created by the crushing process to make usable aggregate. This dust will contain silica dust which is believed to be harmful to the respiratory system. While the wind infrequently blows towards Templeton, it often blows towards Rolleston, potentially carrying harmful silicates towards population centres. Should we be exposing our children to the risk of dust being blown towards them and having to deal with the effects for the rest of their lives?

Silicates in the air might also affect livestock, in particular, racehorses and other high-performance animals. Horses have much larger lungs than humans so there are more spaces for the dust to get trapped in, reducing lung capacity among other effects that may occur.

Noise/vibrations

As with many industries utilizing heavy machinery, noise and vibrations through the ground is an issue. Following the earthquakes many of the people still in the damaged eastern suburbs reported that their homes would shake every time a truck went by especially at speed. With the proposed site being so close to residential areas, how much noise and vibrations from machinery too much?

Groundwater/ water extraction

The proposed quarry is to dig to 1 meter of an unconfined aquifer. These are very vulnerable to contamination as they do not have a protective layer over them. If contaminants such as oil leaks from a vehicle should enter the ground, there is not as much soil potentially soaking it up and diffusing the contaminant before it enters the groundwater system. The direction that the aquifer flows is towards Lake Ellesmere where contaminants from quarrying could enter the lake after quarrying has ceased due to the lag time. Halswell is in the path for the aquifer under Templeton which could contaminate drinking water wells if any are nearby.

Quarrying uses a lot of water which will require extracting groundwater, as the proposed site is too far away from any significant surface water. The Selwyn-Waihora freshwater catchment is greatly over-utilized with more water being extracted from the catchment than is believed to entering the
system. Should we be extracting far more water than is sustainable, with disregard to our children, grandchildren and their descendants.

Backfill

The proposition involves back filling the site with cleanfill, which a nearby quarry did and it was found that the backfill used was contaminated with asbestos. This is particularly an issue due to the close proximity to the aquifer. Any contaminants in the backfill might enter the aquifer.

Population dynamics

Following the earthquakes there was a big shift to the western suburbs as whole areas of dwellings were effectively made uninhabitable due to how the ground behaved. As the city grows naturally or by immigration, national and foreign, Templeton itself may be the very edge of the city as farming and lifestyle land is converted into housing developments. If that does happen the proposed quarry will still be back-filling with the land locked out of potential development.

The applicant has proposed many steps that they will take to reduce their impact to the environment and to the community but how will they personally enforce those steps.