EXTERNAL EMAIL

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Group ID: 422

Consent name: Fulton Hogan - Roydon Quarry

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

Name: Anuschka Reich-Topp

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:**
as per the attached document

**Consent comment:**
as per the attached document
Submission

I object most strongly to the suggested Roydon Quarry for the following reasons:

1) **Air Quality.** Even assuming that FH’s “experts” are correct that the dust is not silica and not dangerous, there is no question that dust will be an issue, especially for those situated closest to the Quarry. There is no amount of “dampening down” or other “mitigating” that will stop the Northwest Winds from whipping huge amounts of dust into the air; anybody elderly, anybody with Asthma, will be affected, as well as the rest of us in terms of the effect on dry gritty eyes as a punishment for any outdoor activity. And on the off chance that FH’s experts are wrong, and the dust does have serious negative implications for some Templeton Residents, that is too high a price to pay, too high of a risk to take. Once granted, there will be no taking it back; mitigation and control has been established as ineffective beyond doubt. If just one resident, one elderly person, one baby, develops serious health issues, it is one too many. Not in Russia, not in China, not in India, but in New Zealand, I expect the rights of the individuals better protected.

2) **Water Quality & Quantity.** Christchurch has water issues. We have been suffering through chlorination, and restrictions. It seems to me to be beyond logic that a Quarry could be plonked within sneezing distance of a residential area, and expect the to use huge amounts on water to “mitigate” dust and not to expect this to affect our groundwater levels and drinking water quality. Especially if in years to come when the Quarry will request going below water table level. This is a ticking time bomb, with potentially huge effects on the whole township.

   Even just looking at the application titles: “A discharge permit to discharge stormwater into land where contaminants may enter groundwater, “A discharge permit to discharge contaminants into land where contaminants may enter groundwater associated with the deposition of cleanfill for site rehabilitation”, are unbelievably alarming. Why? Why would we grant “permits” for such unacceptable behaviour? Like signing a blank cheque for the community to fund their unethical business decisions.

3) **Traffic.** Templeton has been waiting patiently for the development of the Southern Motorway, which was supposed to relieve some of the pressure on our area. This quarry will
have a highly undesirable effect on our quality of life in Templeton. We have kids here, daycare, Kindergarten, primary school, people like to walk and exercise outdoors … it would be absolutely essential that there would be arrangements made that the quarry traffic must enter and leave the area via entries and exits as far away from Templeton township as feasible. The terribly narrow roads surrounding the entire block must be widened. The rural roads are not capable of withstanding such heavy traffic and crumbling edges and potholes, already plentiful now, will increase the risk for all of us other road users. The quality of Templeton township roads must also be prioritised; there would have to be extra footpaths and pedestrian crossings, probably with lights, as trucks are not known to stop for school kids if stopping is only suggested by zebra stripes.

4) **Long term development of Christchurch.** My in-laws tell me when they built their property in central Hornby 40 years ago they were out in the whop whops; there were no asphalted streets until years later and their house stood in a paddock. 40 years have changed the face of Hornby beyond any recognition. We already know that Christchurch is developing southwestwards - so we can’t delude ourselves that a Quarry in that prime area of development is not going to be a huge factor in town planning for the next 35-40 years. I would like to think that any Town Planner worth his salt could see that this is a hugely problematic issue and in years to come, there will be many eye rolls and head shakes with the the comment of “what were they thinking - should have never been allowed … “ Gravel is abundant in Canterbury - assuming the huge risks associated with a quarry in proximity to population is not necessary. Yes, it may cost the business a little extra if the quarry is located further afield; but surely that is better than letting a community assume the risk and cost.

5) **Noise Pollution.** Both from the quarry machinery as well as the traffic in and out of the quarry, 24/7. This is the kind of environmental factor that can really affect a person’s mental health. I realise it will be “quiet” in comparison to flight or raceway noise pollution - but the fact that it is ongoing and constant, adds a huge sense of menace.

6) **Lack of accountability, monitoring & consequences.** Ecan has had plenty of opportunities in previous Quarry situations elsewhere to prove the quality of their monitoring and holding the Quarries to their limits and responsibilities. Unfortunately, all the evidence we have seen and heard, proves beyond doubt that we can not count on their protection. Even Ecan themselves freely admit that they have neither the manpower nor the budget to monitor, never mind prosecute any breaches.

No effective monitoring, no consequences, for air pollution, drinking water pollution, noise, toxic backfill, permits granted with no possibility of redress -- how does this not scare the daylights out of SDC & Ecan??!

7) **Backfill.** Again, there are plenty of precedents which prove beyond any doubt that the operating company can not be relied upon to use “clean” backfill; asbestos and toxic contaminants have been proven to have been dumped in previous quarries. And this would go on top of our unprotected aquifer!? The only sensible way to manage this risk, seeing that Ecan does not have the scope or funding to monitor this, is to not allow it.
8) **Net Worth.** We are in our late forties and have worked for little more than minimum wage our entire life. The knowledge that we will lose around 10% off the net value of our entire life’s investment, in order to make big business millions of dollars annually, is bitter. It feels like the little person’s bank accounts is being raided to make fat cats even fatter. I resent that. When we bought in Templeton nearly 20 years ago, we accepted noise from Ruapuna, rail, motorway & airplanes. But we had no say at all about a quarry being plonked next door, and arguably, the effect on our quality of life and net value, this will be vastly more significant.

9) **Set Backs.** I believe there should be a minimum 500m setback from quarry boundary to the boundary of a residential property. The property boundary, mind, not the dwelling. The people who bought their lifestyle properties with their life savings are entitled to enjoy ALL of their property.

**Conditions**

Assuming that all of our objections will not outweigh the RMA’s bias in favour of big business, if this quarry must go ahead, then these are the issues we would like to see regulated by CCC, SDC & Ecan as conditions to the granting of the permit:

a) Quarry boundary towards Templeton: there should be earthworks thrown up, large trees planted, to reduce the amount of dust travelling straight into Templeton. The earthworks should also assist with reducing the noise travelling towards Templeton.
b) I do not believe FH can be relied upon to operate their business ethically and responsibly. Monitoring compliance of air and water quality, road maintenance, truck movements, and a range of consequences must be established.
c) The quarry - not ratepayers - should pay for some roading improvements, thoughts given to efficient entry/exit points to fling the heavy traffic into the surrounding area without it affecting the existing roads and township. A commitment by FH that truck movements will not enter Templeton? Fines payable by drivers if photographed within Templeton township limits? Trucks should be required to have their load covered, which should avoid a lot of debris affecting the quality of roads, damaged windshields, and keep dust spreading to a minimum.
d) **A commitment made by SDC/Ecan that digging below ground water level is out of the question, now or on the future.** Monitoring by an independent 3rd party, paid for by Quarry?
e) There are many people in Templeton who like to walk/run/bike. Once the quarry fills the air with dust, the desire to spend outdoor time in the opposite direction, towards Waterloo Industrial Park, will increase. There should be a footpath and cycleway connecting Templeton to Waterloo Industrial Park, to increase outdoor options for the people of Templeton.
f) **Setbacks should be 500m from residential property boundary.** Each owner has the RIGHT to enjoy ALL of their property.
g) **Limit the hours and days of operation.** When homeowners return home from work, we ought to be entitled to some peace from the many side effects of the quarry.
h) **Conditional renewal:** instead of granting the application for 35 years, make it renewable every 5 or 10 years -> any breaches to the conditions would endanger the renewal; this may be a passive way of ensuring compliance? And give the population the reassurance that if things go terribly, there is hope that a stop can be put to it within a reasonable timeframe.

I believe this quarry is completely against the spirit of the Government's declaration that we must start to measure success in terms of wellbeing. Quote: "It will no longer be good enough to say a policy is successful because it increases GDP if, at the same time, it also degrades the physical environment, or drives down wages or fractures a community." In that light, the RMA must be reviewed; and until then, decisions like this need someone to stand up and hold out, because it's the right thing to do.