

## **AGGREGATE AND QUARRY ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (AQA):**

### **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SUBMISSION**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. I, Wayne Scott, am the Chief Executive Officer for the Aggregates and Quarrying Association of New Zealand (AQA). I have 30 years' experience in the Quarrying Industry, predominantly in Australia where I managed quarrying operations in both New South Wales and Queensland. My qualifications include an Advanced Diploma in Extractive Industries, several Safety and Training qualifications, and I am a Certified Practising Quarry Manager in Australia.
2. The AQA is an incorporated society, with board members elected from member companies around New Zealand. We are the industry body representing Construction Material companies which produce around 85 % of the estimated 50 million tonnes of aggregate and quarried materials consumed in New Zealand each year.
3. Our members produce the aggregates which form the foundation (and many walls) of almost every building across our nation as well as most of our roads.
4. Our role, on behalf of the industry which we represent includes:
  - submission on local and regional plans;
  - planning support and advice for members;
  - technical support for members and users of our products;
  - community engagement on the importance and significance of aggregates;
  - communicate with members on international trends and learnings;
  - liaison through MinEx on Health and Safety issues;
  - promote and support industry training through engagement with MITO and IOQNZ.
5. Fulton Hogan is a long-standing member of the AQA, and with over 85 years of operational experience, has proven to be a business who cares for the environment and the communities they operate within.
6. The AQA made a submission in support of the Proposed Roydon Quarry resource consent applications, and this statement expands upon those submission points raised in the AQA submission.

#### **IMPORTANCE OF AGGREGATES**

7. Although aggregate is a commodity upon which everyone depends, it is my experience the importance of aggregate resources to district and regional economies is generally not fully appreciated.

8. The aggregates industry provides a number of economic, social and environmental benefits to the community. There are direct benefits for employees working for aggregate extraction and processing companies and suppliers, contractors and consultants involved directly with aspects of quarrying.
9. Quarried products also provide downstream employment for a great number of people in roading, and construction of other infrastructure. They are also extensively used in manufacturing.
10. Manufactured products include ready-mixed and asphaltic concrete, pre-cast concrete beams and panels, masonry, pavers, pipes etc.
11. To construct and maintain roads, port or airport facilities, or other significant built structures without aggregate would be totally impracticable, if not impossible.
12. In the Canterbury Region, both land-based extraction and riverbed extraction play major roles in the provision of vital aggregate materials. I understand from the evidence on behalf of Fulton Hogan that the Roydon Quarry will be a key source of aggregate particularly within the southwest part of Greater Christchurch.
13. Aggregate demand is essentially driven by population growth and infrastructure development and maintenance. As the population of Christchurch and Selwyn grows, a sustained supply of aggregate will not only be required to provide for building, construction and roading projects associated with this growth, but will also be needed to maintain and redevelop existing infrastructure which is key to unlocking regional economic potential.
14. I understand Mr Michael Chilton has set out in his evidence more detail around the supply and demand for aggregates within Christchurch and Selwyn, and Canterbury generally.

#### **IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINED AGGREGATE SUPPLY**

15. Nationwide, the most pressing issue facing the aggregates industry, is the diminishing availability of consented aggregate resource relative to demand. This is owing to several factors, including:
  - existing well established quarries nearing the end of their extractive life;
  - the sterilisation of resource through urban development being established on top of resources or in such close proximity that these resources become unfeasible to consent;
  - greenfield quarries being very hard to establish in close proximity to the markets that require them;
  - urban encroachment on existing quarries creating reverse sensitivity effects and restrictions on production capacity;
  - regulatory processes being very expensive and time consuming, leading to delays in sites being established as well as some proposals being declined;
  - increased costs in extraction and transportation of the resource.

16. While I understand the Christchurch market is relatively self-sustaining in terms of aggregate supply, this should not be taken for granted and having a secure supply of aggregates will help provide affordable housing and infrastructure now and for future generations. This self-reliance on aggregate provides an economic advantage to Greater Christchurch given the cost of transporting aggregates is such a significant proportion of the final supplied cost.
17. I understand from the evidence of Fulton Hogan that the quarry is well placed to supply the growth areas in the southwest of Christchurch and also the Selwyn District. The proposed quarry is a large site capable of lasting many decades.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

18. I understand Fulton Hogan is proposing best practice mitigation measures for the site and has developed a detailed Quarry Rehabilitation plan. AQA is supportive of Fulton Hogan's commitment to going 'beyond compliance' and encourages and assists all its members in implementing environmental good practice.
19. Additionally, I understand that many of these mitigation measures have been developed and refined in consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders as the consent process has progressed. AQA encourages the development of meaningful relationships between quarry operators and the communities in which they operate in and commends both Fulton Hogan and the community on its commitment in engaging on the application.

#### **CONCLUSION**

20. AQA is supportive of Fulton Hogan's proposed Roydon Quarry and the environment measures Fulton Hogan is proposing to implement at the site. The quarry, if consented, will provide a valuable aggregate source to Christchurch and Selwyn Districts and is important for ensuring the future availability of aggregates within these districts close to where they are required.