

**Before Independent Hearings Commissioners appointed by  
Canterbury Regional Council and Selwyn District Council**

In the Matter of                      the Resource Management Act 1991

And

In the Matter of                      Applications by **Fulton Hogan Limited** for all  
resource consents necessary to establish,  
operate, maintain and close an aggregate quarry  
**(Roydon Quarry)** between Curraghs, Dawsons,  
Maddisons and Jones Road, Templeton.

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**EVIDENCE OF ALEXANDER JAMES IMLACH ON BEHALF OF THE NEW  
ZEALAND MOTOR CARAVAN ASSOCIATION INC.**

Dated:    14 October 2019

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## INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Alexander James Imlach. I am known as James.
2. I am the National Policy and Planning Manager at the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Incorporated (**NZMCA**).
3. I have been employed by the NZMCA for the past ten years. Prior to my current role I held the positions of Resource Management Planner and Resource Management Coordinator at the NZMCA.
4. I hold a Bachelor of Science (Geography) from the University of Auckland and a Master of Resource and Environmental Planning from Massey University (First Class Honours).
5. Throughout my employment with the NZMCA, I have been involved in the design, development and operation of several NZMCA Parks nationwide, including the operation of the NZMCA's campground at 286 Jones Road, Weedons (**Weedons campground**). I advise the Association on a range of planning and resource management issues, prepare resource consent applications and attending hearings. I also advise the Association on various national, regional, and local body policy matters, including proposed plan changes, camping-related policies and bylaws, and assisting with judicial review proceedings.

## SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

6. My evidence will provide a brief overview of:
  - (a) the NZMCA, including the types of members using the Weedons campground;
  - (b) the Weedons campground including its typical use and the benefits it provides members visiting the site; and
  - (c) the concern's members using the Weedons campground have with the proposed Roydon Quarry.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE NZMCA**

7. The NZMCA was formed in 1956 by a small group of like-minded enthusiasts. Its overriding purpose is to provide advice and information to club members, while promoting motorhoming and caravanning opportunities across New Zealand. Today, the NZMCA represents over 91,000 individual New Zealanders who share a passion for exploring our country at leisure in their certified self-contained<sup>1</sup> motorhomes and caravans.
8. The NZMCA's vision is to provide safe and enjoyable motor caravanning opportunities for its members, along with the information and services they need to experience all our country has to offer with their friends and family, while respecting New Zealand's natural environment. Three of the NZMCA's four guiding principles are centred on advocacy, fostering social interactions between members, and promoting environmental protection, enhancement and awareness.
9. The NZMCA is guided by several core objectives, including
  - (a) Promoting and fostering fellowship and enjoyment of motor caravan activities amongst members;
  - (b) Promoting the provision of safe overnight motor caravan parking facilities for members throughout New Zealand;
  - (c) Monitoring, promoting, protecting and advocating the collective interests and benefits of the Association and its members in all matters, whether legislative, regulatory or otherwise that may affect motor caravan activities; and
  - (d) Seeking out and providing member benefits (including the establishment and operation of exclusive NZMCA Parks).

### **Membership of the NZMCA**

10. NZMCA membership is open to New Zealanders who have a keen interest in responsible motor caravanning. Members are predominately in the

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<sup>1</sup> Certified to New Zealand Standard for Self-containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans (NZS 5465:2001)

retiree / baby-boomer demographic, although over the past few years we have seen a resurgence of younger families joining the club. The benefits of membership, including exclusive access to NZMCA Parks, are also available to children and grandchildren travelling with a financial member.

11. The South Island, in particular the Canterbury region, is a popular destination for NZMCA members, which is why the Association has invested a significant amount of time and resources developing the Weedons campground, along with nine (9) other similar campgrounds throughout the Canterbury region, for our members' exclusive use.
12. The NZMCA is a social club at heart. Its roots are spread throughout New Zealand and its network of volunteer members are the backbone of the organisation. Members play an integral role in supporting the club's affairs, including maintaining NZMCA Parks to a high standard for themselves and their fellow members to enjoy all year round.

### **NZMCA Parks**

13. One of the key benefits of NZMCA membership includes exclusive access to its network of NZMCA Parks. NZMCA Parks, like the Weedons campground, provide access to basic amenities to support temporary (non-permanent) overnight stays.
14. NZMCA Parks provide members and their families with a safe, convenient and relaxing place to camp when they are travelling the road. Members often use our parks to get away for the weekend while leaving behind the stresses of modern life. The ability to relax and unwind, without excessive disturbance, is a fundamental expectation for members using our parks.
15. NZMCA Parks are only available to financial members of the club. They are not open to the general public nor do they permit permanent residence for NZMCA members. The appearance and operation of a typical NZMCA Park is quite distinct from a conventional public camping-ground. NZMCA Parks are more low-key, generate less noise, vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

## **WEEDONS CAMPGROUND**

16. The NZMCA opened the Weedons campground in 2007. It has land-use resource consent (RC175313) from the Selwyn District Council permitting up to 130 motorhomes and caravans on site at any one time. The consent allows individual members to camp on site for up to 21 days in any 60-day period. The park provides basic facilities to support short-term camping up to the permitted length of time. Members camp within an open space environment and have access to a 2ha native forest with outdoor walking track. The native forest was planted to help improve local biodiversity in the area, while providing native birds with a place to nest.
17. Many members camp for up to 21 consecutive days, however most camp for up to 3 consecutive nights per visit. The camp is well used by members throughout the year. Peak usage coincides with the busier summer season.

### **Typical daily use of the site**

18. On a typical day, members will arrive and depart the site during daytime hours. Members generally prefer to park around the periphery of the open space environment (including the boundary closest to Roydon Quarry).
19. Members typically spend time relaxing in and around their motorhomes. Passive activities include reading, BBQ's and conversing with neighbouring members. Members prefer noise is kept to a minimum as their primary purpose for visiting the park is to relax and unwind in a peaceful environment. Members may also relax by walking through the native forest listening to native bird songs. Richard Jackett's evidence provides further information on a typical night at an NZMCA Park.
20. Members often congregate at social gatherings held inside and outside a gathering shed near the site entrance. The events, colloquially known as 'happy hours', usually start at 4pm and last for a few hours at a time. These social interactions help foster camaraderie and promote mental well-being amongst members, particularly older members who travel alone.

## **CONCERNS WITH THE APPLICATION**

21. The NZMCA received several enquiries from concerned members when the Roydon Quarry proposal went public. The NZMCA's submission expands on the main themes raised by members who enjoy staying at the Weedons campground. Members are primarily concerned the quarry proposal will adversely affect their ability to enjoy camping and relaxing at the Weedons campground due to noise, traffic and dust-related effects. Lara Stace's evidence elaborates on these concerns.
22. Mr. Stewart's statement of evidence discusses Fulton Hogan's process for selecting the Roydon quarry site. His evidence, at para. 40(b), refers to the surrounding physical area, including the proximity of dwellings and sensitive land uses, as criteria for choosing quarry sites. It is not clear from this evidence or the application whether the Weedons campground was carefully considered prior to selecting the Roydon quarry, particularly given the number of people likely to camp next door during peak periods.
23. On average, more members visit the Weedons campground over summer, and they are likely to spend more time outside enjoying the weather and camaraderie with other members. Members are particularly concerned about the potential effects of dust while relaxing outside during a prevalent north easterly wind, which the applicant acknowledges is stronger and more frequent in summer.
24. The NZMCA appreciates Fulton Hogan's willingness to engage with the community along with their commitment to developing and maintaining a good relationship with affected stakeholders. Should the hearings panel approve the application, the NZMCA would appreciate the opportunity to participate in the proposed Community Liaison Group.