Oral submission to the Templeton Roydon Quarry hearing panel by Jimmy Chen on Monday 2 December 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this afternoon. I am the representative for Templeton on the Christchurch City Council. I have been the City Councillor for this area since 2010 which allowed me 9 years to get to know the community and build strong relationships with them. I have always put people at the heart of my decision making. Over the years, I have effectively advocated for this community. During my time as Councillor, I have also served on the Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board. I am a Trustee of Royal New Zealand Air Force Museum Trust Board, Trustee of Riccarton Bush Trust Board, Trustee of Hei Hei-Broomfield Community Development Trust Board, Trustee of the Church in Christchurch Trust Board, and a senior Christchurch City Councillor in the fourth term. I am also Chair of the Council’s Multicultural Committee.

I am a strong advocate for the people in the south-west suburbs of the city as well as an advocate for the multi-ethnic and multicultural communities. As a City Councillor, I led the Multicultural Working Party to develop the Multicultural Strategy, and this strategy has been launched by the Council in May 2017. This strategy is a commitment by the Council to provide a framework and a set of goals and actions to ensure every person in Christchurch feels a sense of belonging, and also give every person in Christchurch equally to access the Council’s services, resources, as well as participating in the decision-making process. As the Chair of the Council's Multicultural Committee, I have been taking a lead to oversee the implementation of the Multicultural Strategy.

I am not speaking to you as a City Councillor today. This is my personal, individual submission as someone who has an in-
depth knowledge and understanding of the Templeton community, and because I believe that the proposed quarry will have a significant negative effect on their quality of life. I have spoken to many of the residents over the last 18 months and they have all expressed the same major concerns around traffic, noise, dust, groundwater, light pollution and amenity. It is because of these concerns that I am here today to ask you to decline all applications.

Because of the duration of the proposed quarry, there are serious concerns around the one-metre separation between the lowest excavation and the groundwater level at the site. I understand the applicant is proposing intermitted checks over the years but those are far apart. Experience from other sites in the area have showed that ground water does break though and by the time you can see it, it is too late. The community is looking for proactive measures to protect the environment.

I can’t see how the applicant’s proposal to add 1,200 heavy vehicles and 150 light vehicles on to our roads daily without it having an effect. Increase in traffic will result in an increase in damage to our roads as well as an increase in noise. Safety on our roads is another concern that is raised regularly by residents. High flows of heavy vehicle traffic will increase congestion and diminish the peaceful countryside amenity of the area.

The constant noise from the proposed activities will spell the end of the present peaceful rural character of the Templeton area. Just complying with the District Plan is not enough considering the duration of the activities. I consider the noise levels very high for a source that operates constantly. It is also wrong to start work 7am on a Saturday when most people want to sleep in or enjoy a quiet, peaceful morning walk in the country.

Templeton currently has dark starry nights. The introduction of lights on this size operation will affect the rural amenity currently
enjoyed by all. They do not want artificial light in the night environment. The motorway is far away from this site so the large number of lights proposed by the applicant will affect the residents. Even carefully used light fundamentally alters natural conditions.

The proposed site activities will create a significant amount of dust. Any dust will reduce the air quality in the immediate surrounding area and that of neighbouring properties. The applicant states in the expert evidence of Alec Jorgensen dated 30 October 2019 that dust will be minimal beyond a 200m radius from the boundary. That means residents and businesses living within the 200m radius will experience significant exposure to dust. Dust nuisance will be something new that people in the area will have to deal with. This is not something that will be for a short duration. The effects of dust will start with site preparation and continue for the life of the quarry. Possibly more than 40 years. We have many residents in the area with respiratory problems. They have chosen to live in Templeton knowing that they will enjoy unpolluted clean air. (or so they thought)

Given the cumulative effects of the proposed activities, the area will no longer feel rural, it will have a distinct industrial flavour. Each individual activity might be mitigated to minimize the negative effects, but once activities start people will experience them all together.

Many individuals and families chose to move to the area due to its rural character and the quality of life that it presented. This amenity will be lost with the introduction of the proposed industrial activities. Residents enjoy the external space as part of their living environment. The open land adds to a feeling of tranquillity.

This is a well-established community who has done nothing to deserve the proposed changes that will be forced on them and that
they will have to deal with for the rest of their lives should they choose to stay in their homes. Therefore, I am asking you to not approve any of the applications. Thank you.