

Neil Connors

I live at 272 Currags Road and I also work from here (both farming and my office job). For the last 7 years I have farmed this land producing food for the local market. Beef and lamb for Countdown. This is another area of concern for me – productive land to produce food for New Zealanders to eat is going to be quarried. Once quarried we will never produce food from that productive parcel of land again.

I am at home most hours of the day and most days of the week. I fear for the disturbance of the proposed quarry. At present when I am inside my double glazed house I hear the rumble of empty shingle trucks going past. The noise is identical to that of an impending earthquake (the noise we heard on the early hours of the morning of 4th September 2010) and it has you waiting for the shake to start. It is very unnerving.

Driving past the back of Fulton Hogan’s Pound Road Quarry – on Hasketts Road – I have noticed rubbish gets dumped on the side of the road nearly every weekend. I know this is not Fulton Hogan’s fault, however it is an issue associated with this activity. The Pound Road Quarry is in the CCC zone and the Council clean it up. The SDC to my knowledge does not.

Another concern with this activity is what the land can be used for in the future, upon the completion of it being a quarry. We continually hear about the dirty farmers polluting our ground waters. When I think about this, I think that the farmers are only doing what the experts allowed them to do years ago and look at the results! Lets learn from history and not make the same mistakes we will regret in 30 years time.

At the end of this quarry’s life I don’t believe you will be able to farm the land because you have removed productive soil and you have removed natures water filter, the shingle. Animal nitrogen leaching will be increased and flow directly into the underlying water aquifers. You will not be able to build because the land will not be stable.

I look around at all the shingle pits and quarries and have trouble finding one that has been remediated and being used to the same level of production pre-quarry. It is disturbing to see the beautiful farmland being ripped apart and left as open quarries with rubbish dumped in them (broken Christchurch). If Fulton Hogan went bankrupt then who is going to finance the clean up of these open quarries.

My other neighbouring land was owned by the late Jimmy Curragh and it has been recently sold. There is now a concern that this land could be quarried if a precedent were set in the area – more farming land going to waste.

TABLED AT HEARING

Application:

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Date: *3rd Dec 2019*

Hi, my name is Neil Comyns. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to discuss the effects of the proposed Quarry on my family and me.

I purchased 358 Maddisons Road off Mervyn Curragh almost 20 years ago. Subsequently married at the property and have had and am raising my children here. During the early years of owning this property I leased it to John Court, who also leased the Fines property – which is the land Fulton Hogan have purchased and propose to turn into a quarry. John Court ran the same rotations on my land as he did on the Fines. Crops in the summer (mainly Barley and Peas for Watties). He would then direct drill a winter feed late summer for dairy replacement stock feed during the winter.

Over the years I have owned the land there has been a significant increase in traffic, meaning John Court was unable to move his cows by foot down the road and these had to be transported by truck.

About 7 years ago we purchased an adjoining block of land to my Maddisons Road property from the Hulston Estate (a farming family in the area) – being 272 Curraghs Road, to increase our land-holding to enable us to independently farm successfully. We invested a lot of time and money into this property, both farming infrastructure and our new family home – where I reside today with my wife and two dependent boys. We love the area, being able to live in the country and yet be so close to town.

We sometimes get a smell from Fulton Hogan's Asphalt plant from their Quarry in Pound Road. Even though I might not like this, it was here before I was. I did my homework before I bought land in this area and I knew what adverse effects would impact my lifestyle, my family's health and my investment.

Both my children go to school in town and they generally travel by bus into school. Our closest bus stop is at the cnr of Curraghs and Jones Roads. My children walk and/or bike to and from the bus stop, along with some of the neighbouring children past the proposed quarry site. I am concerned for their health. Both from the dust and the increased traffic, particularly the number of trucks.

Walking down Curraghs Road is down wind of the predominate wind in Canterbury N/NE and all the dust from the quarry will blow straight at them. I also don't believe you can predict or control the flow of traffic from this site and this is of a great concern as currently my children have to walk down the road as there is no foot path for them to walk on.

My eldest child has just started to drive and the increase in heavy vehicle movements is of concern as I have attended several high impact accidents at all the corners adjoining the quarry site to date.