Tenā koutou katoa, and good morning everyone.

I would like to thank the authorities and applicant for publicly notifying this consent process, enabling more people to participate and express their views.

I would also like to thank ECan for uploading so many documents and more recently the audio recordings of these hearings online, making the proceedings more transparent and accessible to the public.

Before I begin, I need to stress that I am here today as a member of the public and in no other capacity.

When I sent in my submission earlier this year, I was a stay at home mum, however in the intervening months I have been elected onto Selwyn District Council as a councillor for the Selwyn Central ward. This includes the proposed quarry site, and many of the surrounding farms, businesses, and lifestyle blocks. I am also now on the Greater Christchurch Partnership committee, which includes the Templeton/Weedons area, and the Christchurch-West Melton Water Zone committee, which does not.

I am aware of the conflict of interest between my submission to this hearing and my new job. This is why I want to make it absolutely clear that my words are based on personal views and experiences alone, and have no link to Selwyn District Council or any other responsibilities linked to the role of local councillor.

I also need to stress that I am not completely against quarries. At this time, access to such materials is still necessary, but I do not believe that any economic argument can overrule the impact that this will have on the local community.

**Context**

[Please see the slide of Wheatsheaf Quarry from Google Maps]

As mentioned in my original submission, my family and I lived in the Broadfield area from 2013-2018; we now live in Rolleston.

Our Broadfield home was just over 900m from the centre of the Wheatsheaf Quarry, which has its primary entrance on Selwyn Road, and a little under 700m from the operational edge of the quarry. This quarry is currently owned by Winstone Aggregates (operating as Selwyn Quarries), not Fulton Hogan, but I believe that the context is relevant.

[Please see the slide of the Winstones’ webpage for Wheatsheaf Quarry]

The nearest residence is only 100m from the boundary, and while Wheatsheaf Quarry is much smaller in area than the proposed Roydon Quarry, the combined area of the access roads, active pit, areas under rehabilitation, and machinery is comparable.
[Please see the slide of the proposed Roydon Quarry and Wheatsheaf Quarry from Google Maps]

Please also note that while this is obviously a separate case, over the last decade the Wheatsheaf Quarry has increased in size ten-fold, as well as purchasing land across the road from my old home [red dashed line]. Both Fulton Hogan and Winstones were party to the application for consent to dig closer to the water table in 2015, which was declined by ECan and I believe is being appealed in the Environment Court. The Road Metals quarry on Wards Road, on the other side of Rolleston, has also applied to vary their conditions since consent was originally granted.

My point in mentioning these instances is that this hearing is just the beginning, and that local residents will be looking over their shoulders for 35 or more years, waiting for the next consent variation application.

As a cancer survivor, I liken this to my regular blood tests and annual check-ups; it’s like a quarterly reminder that all may not be well.

Life near a Quarry

My experience as a stay at home mum living close to a quarry was primarily one of noise and dust.

The local ambient noise was unobjectionable: animals, tractors, the old chaff cutter next door, cars on the road, even the odd flock of cyclists out for a weekend ride. We could hear the trains travelling along the mainline, and comment sadly when the fire station sirens blared out from both Rolleston and Lincoln within minutes of each other.

The quarry machinery cut through all of this, and because we spent a lot of time at home it really was a constant irritation.

The sound was like a constant ting-ting-ting with occasional rumbling, avalanche-like noises, and I fully admit that I have no idea what kind of plant made that sound. It was just there, all day, and worse when the easterly wind blew.

Thankfully, the Wheatsheaf Quarry does not operate at night. The noise would be far more noticeable then, and I feel sorry for anyone in Weedons or Templeton if consent is granted for the proposed Roydon Quarry on this basis. I’ve never lived in a home with an air conditioning system, so our solution to a hot night is to keep the windows open. A night fraught with both banging and humidity would be doubly unbearable. You don’t have to be a brain scientist to understand that this would result in many sleep-deprived families making their groggy, irritable way to school or work the next day.

The dust was another constant companion.

It became a family joke that Sophie never cleaned her windows, not because she couldn’t be bothered nor even the grubby handprints of small children, but because there was no point. Within a week they would be coated again, and with young twins to deal with I had very little motivation to get out there and wash windows on a regular basis.

We even used to wash our cars around the back of the house, not just to conserve water, but because on the wrong day – sometimes windy, sometimes hot, sometimes quite average – you’d stand back to admire your work... squint... run a finger over the bodywork... and yes, there it is: dust.

[Please see the dust storm slide]
On a truly windy day, the dust was palpable. The photo you can see now was taken on Sunday 4th October 2015, looking towards the Wheatsheaf Quarry. It was a gale force day, and the dust storm was not limited to the Broadfield area, but being a Sunday the quarry was closed and no mitigation measures were being applied.

[Brief flick back to the webpage slide, showing the Wheatsheaf Quarry opening hours]

During our years at this house, we also noticed that the filters on our DVS system needed changing every 6 months rather than every 12 months. We had no such issues in our previous home in Halswell, nor today in Rolleston. It was very worrying though. My husband suffers from asthma, and with three children — two of whom were still very young — we had concerns that in Broadfield they would be at greater risk of developing similar respiratory issues.

But, did I ever complain formally about either of these issues? No, I didn’t.

Complaints, Investigation, and Resolutions

I sat in for a short portion of this hearing last Monday, and noted that one of the commissioners asked whether any complaints had ever been received regarding the Barters Rd Quarry from Templeton residents. The answer was, I believe, no. This doesn’t surprise me too much.

If I were to guess, I would imagine that anyone who was concerned or irritated by the noise felt similarly to me, i.e. unconvinced that anything substantial would happen. We’d already made complaints about a couple of other issues, like leftover milk being sprayed regularly on the paddocks to our north for pigs to drink, and a neighbour whose stock escaped on a regular basis. Very little happened other than warnings in both cases, which doesn’t inspire confidence in the complaints process. Taking on a large quarry firm seemed even less likely to succeed.

One reason why residents feel powerless to complain is a lack of evidence. This has of course been highlighted in the Yaldhurst area, when not only was there no dust suppression during several wind events, but even the monitoring equipment failed. As such there are times when residents felt that evidence of extreme dust should have been absolute, however it was instead notable by its absence.

I see from the ECan website that they anticipate a far more successful monitoring regime this summer. I welcome this progress and hope that it will be implemented at every quarry in the region — possibly even nationally — because the average temperature and wind speed is predicted to increase over the next few decades.

And even if there is evidence of non-compliance, what is the result? ECan have admitted that they have too few enforcement staff to monitor breaches, and warnings and fines are insignificant compared to the impact on people’s lives.

[Please see the Broadfield Community News slide]
Occasionally we would raise concerns with those who sat on the Quarry Community Liaison Committee, more so after the land across the road from us was purchased, as this was put forward as the best means of communication.

We knew several members of this committee personally, and saw them regularly at the school gate or during social events, but to be honest this was a farce. I don’t recall seeing a single set of minutes from the supposedly quarterly meetings, even after asking, and when my husband attended the Broadfield Community Committee meeting he found that they were only concerned with the hall and reserve on Robinsons Road.

So again, no joy.

I’d like to note at this point that one friend, who sat on both the Quarry Liaison and Broadfield Community committees, made a complaint about truck movements from the quarry along Robinsons Road near Broadfield School. The speed, gravel, and dirt kicked up – particularly when two trucks passed each other – created additional potholes and damage to the road edge. It also endangered anyone on the verge. This included residents mowing the verge, and also a number of children who walk or cycle to school.

I don’t recall the exact wording of the reply, but the retelling amounted to “you should drive them to school instead”. Really? Again, I know that this is a different quarry and probably different drivers – though you never really know with contractors – but the lack of concern was astounding.

I understand that Fulton Hogan have undertaken to establish a Code of Conduct for drivers. Unless this is enforceable – with a process laid out for reporting complaints, genuine investigation, and effective resolutions – I can’t really see how this will help.

**The Future**

*(Please see the family photo slide)*

In the end, obviously, we moved away from Broadfield and into Rolleston. I must say that it’s very nice to not have dust all over the windows any more, but the sound of so many more humans going about their daily lives is much louder than the odd tractor. It is still, however, far less constant or nagging an irritation than quarry machinery.

I have 3 year old twins, a 12 year old daughter, and a 48 year old husband. If consent is granted, my eldest child will be the age of her father by the time a request is made to continue quarrying. My younger children will likely be the same age as I am now – 42 years old – by the time that next round of submissions and hearings is completed.

All three of them will have learnt to drive dodging even more trucks on the road, and seeing an eyesore from the SH1 overbridge as they travel into Hornby. Or a bund blocking what was a pastoral view, just across Jones Road, if the dream of light rail has been successful by then.

I also wonder how long it will be before dust suppression via water is considered to be a colossal waste of natural resources. Christchurch’s population is increasing, as is that of Selwyn; there are already plans to build a sports complex and establish a cemetery on the Christchurch side of Dawsons Road. The demand
on our aquifers is going to increase and they are not an unlimited resource. Locals are already concerned about water quality and availability, particularly those with private wells – and there was a mention in one audio file of this hearing that there is no official record of most domestic wells.

**Possible conditions**

[Please see the suggested conditions slide]

I do not believe that the Roydon site is an appropriate location for a quarry. It is too close to a growing township, and to too many other residences. It is economically convenient for Fulton Hogan, yet conveniently ignores the wellbeing of thousands of local people – which I know the conditions of the RMA does not allow for, but they remain living, breathing human beings.

If this quarry is granted consent, however, I would like to suggest the following conditions:

- Specific limits for noise, dust, and traffic movements, low enough to be considerate of the local population;
- Independent, stringent, and constant monitoring for all of the above;
- Detailed plans to swiftly counteract non-compliance;
- A clear complaints process, to include genuine investigation and resolution where appropriate; and
- Substantial fines and sanctions for any and all infringements. A slap on the wrist or a warning is nowhere near enough.

With regards to dust: monitoring and mitigation plans should be in effect 24/7, not just when the quarry is in operation. The wind cares nothing for a human workday.

Further suggestions include:

- A significant contribution to the proposed sports facility planned for Templeton. Perhaps free groundworks and bund construction, and shutdowns during major sports events.
- Extend the independent monitoring to residences within 2km or more – with owners’ agreement – for air and water quality, including items like DVS or air-con filters, well depth, and noise levels. This could then be used to further refine best practice both locally and nationally.
- Timely maintenance along the designated routes taken by truck drivers – who will of course abide by the code of conduct – to repair potholes and other damage created by additional heavy vehicles.

Thank you for your time.

Nō reira. Tenā koutou, tenā koutou, tenā koutou katoa.
Original submission against the proposed Roydon Quarry
– Sophie McInnes

I have been a resident of Rolleston since June 2018, and prior to that I lived in Broadfield for 5 years, around 800m (as the crow flies) from the centre of the Wheatsheaf Quarry operated by Winstones. Many of my concerns are formed from the experience of living near that quarry.

From satellite imagery, a quarry is a scar on the earth. Certainly locals do not always see this, however when a plane flies overhead bearing tourists, their impression of the western side of Christchurch must already be tainted by the sheer number of quarries on view. Selwyn district would like to retain more tourist dollars, not deter them.

No amount of bund and native planting will blinker drivers’ (both local and visiting) view of the quarry from the new elevated section of SH1 between the Robinsons Road underpass and the new SH1/Dawsons/Waterholes Road roundabout. A stand of pine or gum trees might do it, but I don’t see those in the plan and obviously they take some time to grow.

At our home in Broadfield we had dusty windows, all the time (much more so than we now experience in Rolleston). I know that sounds like a first world problem, but when you realise how much of it you and your children must be breathing as well, that’s a genuine concern. From what I have heard, dust mitigation measures are only used while a quarry is in operation, which potentially leaves dust flying about naturally over 50% of the time.

The rumble of up to 1500 vehicles per day on the older portions of SH1, which were not designed for this level of use, cannot be good in the long run. I cannot see from the documents whether the definition of vehicles is the same for an employee’s car as a truck and trailer unit, which would significantly increase the impact on our roads.

I was a stay at home mum in Broadfield, and most days I could hear the quarry machinery clinking and clanking even when the wind wasn’t blowing an easterly. I am well aware that agricultural areas are not quiet and that there is plenty of activity going on at all times, but neither Broadfield nor Templeton are designated as industrial zones. The application requests permission to operate 24/7, though not constantly. That may be so, but even one night of that noise will disturb the sleep of thousands of local residents, not to mention the animals (domesticated or wild) nearby.

In a few years, my oldest child will be able to drive. I would fear for her safety on the road already, but with 1500 additional vehicles through our area I’m going to be downright terrified. Frankly, those driving quarry trucks at the moment can be absolute shockers for stopping across train tracks, pulling out onto major roads in spite of oncoming traffic, and so on.

We left Broadfield last year to escape from the feeling that we were about to be penned in by quarries, particularly when the land opposite our house was purchased by Winstones. Selling that house took six months, including one failed purchase, primarily because people aren’t dumb when it comes to realising what they might be facing. Obviously we are, in Rolleston, still potentially in the path of dust and noise from the proposed Roydon Quarry, but I take great comfort in the additional distance.

Consent comment:
• No quarrying activity within 1km of a residence (not just a township, but any residence).
• Constant air quality monitoring for dust particulates, not just when the quarry is operating.
• Traffic monitoring, to ensure that in/out movements are within those applied.
• Use a formula that counts truck and trailer units as multiple vehicle movements.
• Rules around dust and traffic movements, not just unenforceable guidelines, which must be adhered to by contractors (e.g. trucking companies and their drivers) as well as Fulton Hogan.
• Significant fines for breaching any of those rules, not just a token slap on the wrist.
Roydon Quarry submission
Sophie McInnes – Monday 2nd December 2019
Dust storm, October 2015
- looking towards Wheatsheaf Quarry
Selwyn Quarry Extension
posted 9 Sep 2013, 09:13 by [Redacted]

As mentioned in last week’s edition of the Broadfield Community News, Wheat sheaf Quarry, also known as Selwyn Quarry, on Selwyn Road, has been sold to the Higgins Group (a construction company), along with Calcon (a construction company and the previous owners of the quarry).

Currently, the quarry is 70 acres in size; however, following the purchase of neighbouring land, Higgins Group have put in an application to enlarge the quarry to 120 acres with a truck movements reaching 600 per day.

There was much concern when the quarry was recently (approximately 2-3 years ago) was consented to enlarge from 10 to 20 acres, with issues raised about “this not being in keeping with community values”. It’s alarming to note this, and with the new potential extension and begs the question, where will it stop?

The other major issue is relating to children safety considering the quarry’s proximity to Broadfield School.
Suggested conditions

If this quarry is granted consent, I suggest the following:

- Specific limits for noise, dust, and traffic movements, low enough to be considerate of the local population;
- Independent, stringent, and constant monitoring for all of the above;
- Detailed plans to swiftly counteract non-compliance;
- A clear complaints process, to include genuine investigation and resolution where appropriate; and
- Substantial fines and sanctions for any and all infringements. A slap on the wrist or a warning is nowhere near enough.
- With regards to dust: monitoring and mitigation plans should be in effect 24/7, not just when the quarry is in operation. The wind cares nothing for a human workday.

Further suggestions include:

- A significant contribution to the proposed sports facility planned for Templeton. Perhaps free groundworks and bund construction, and shutdowns during major sports events.
- Extend the independent monitoring to residences within 2km or more – with owners’ agreement – for air and water quality, including items like DVS or air-con filters, well depth, and noise levels. This could then be used to further refine best practice both locally and nationally.
- Timely maintenance along the designated routes taken by truck drivers – who will of course abide by the code of conduct – to repair potholes and other damage created by additional heavy vehicles.