

Sam Dalton

Hello everyone, my name is Sam Dalton. I live happily in Templeton with my dad, my brother and sister, and my mum who is also speaking today. I am 14 years old, and have lived in Templeton for almost my whole life. When I heard about the proposed quarry, I knew that it would not go ahead without severe protest from the local community, and as you can see I was right. I want to clearly state, I am not a scientist or a politician, or even an adult. I am just a kid who doesn't want his home snatched away from him, his friends, and his family by a company too enormous to care. I strongly oppose the location of the proposed Royden Quarry, as well as their proposed methods of work, for the following reasons:

Firstly, the substantial length of operation. The quarry, if it is to go ahead, is said to stay active for 40 years. 40 years of countless trucks, dust and debris filling our streets, and disrupting noise 24/7. Once the quarry has done its damage, the year will be 2060. I will be as old as my father, and my father will be as old as my grandfather. Assuming I remain in Templeton, I will live 50% of my life in the shadow of this massive quarry. I will grow up, learn to drive, get a job, graduate, and possibly live half of my life unsafely, and unhappily. Even after the quarry has shut down in 2060, there will still be a gaping hole taking up close to the entire 170 hectare section. The area, stripped of all of its natural resources, will become wasteland, where nothing can grow and no one can live. One that can never be fixed. An ugly scar on the face of Selwyn, the current fastest growing region in New Zealand.

TABLED AT HEARING

Application:

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Secondly, the trucks. Originally Fulton Hogan proposed that there would be 1800 truck movements daily, but after outrage from the locals, and countless mentions of it in submission statements, Fulton Hogan decided to reduce the number of daily movements to 1200 per day. This is still too many. That is one truck every 72 seconds, along with all of the other trucks not owned by Fulton Hogan. I know of people, not only children, but adults as well, who shudder every time a train goes past, or the floor shakes, or building creaks, because of the traumatic events of the Christchurch earthquakes, that they suffered through. And now thundering trucks rumbling past. Put yourself in their shoes. 1200 earthquakes a day, 50 an hour, and 2 every 3 minutes. How do you think they would feel. At risk? Anxious? Downright terrified? Of course. Fulton Hogan says that this isn't an issue, because their drivers will only drive around the new roundabout and down Main South Road, bypassing Templeton completely. Now we all know that that isn't true. How can this be enforced? As soon as drivers leave the quarry, they will do as we all do, and take the quickest route to their destination, straight down Railway Terrace, and through the heart of Templeton. Every day, hundreds of trucks going past a church, a school, a preschool, and a kindergarten. My parents rightfully no longer let my siblings or I ride our bikes on the roads, despite it being our right to do so, simply because of the dangers that large amounts of quarry trucks bring.

In conclusion, I hope that you are now aware of the negative effects this quarry will have on me, my family, and my community. I do hope that Fulton Hogan will reconsider their application, and move to a more appropriate site. Thank you all for listening.