

24 November 2020

To Whom it may concern,

REF: WRITTEN SUBMISSION OPPOSING PROPOSED QUARRY AT RANGIORA RACECOURSE

I would like to submit the following response to the notification of the above resource consent application:

I object to this proposal for the following reasons:

1) The Intrinsic Value of The Area (Why People Chose to Live Here)

Nearby homeowners did due diligence and chose a quiet SAFE area close to a recreational area with easy access. That's why we chose to build and live in this area. Therefore a majority of the owners are retirees, or close to retiring, or those with young families. It is not a case of budget, or low cost for this area. People bought here for those intrinsic values. The elderly want a peaceful area that is safe and no risk to their health for their last few years. Families want a safe healthy environment for their children with areas of recreation close by that can easily be accessed.

These same families want to be able to sit outside in the week and enjoy the outdoors. Why should they have this intrinsic right taken away when that is what they bought here for?

We (my husband and I) have a business building healthy energy efficient homes for a reason. Why would we then want to live in an area with health risks when we step outside?

2) Safety – Truck Movements

The proposal talks of a huge number of truck movements per day. The site is adjacent to a residential area housing many families and retirees. The area is also adjacent to a popular recreational area being the Rakahuri Track and the Ashley River. Many families and groups bike and walk Lehmans Rd and adjacent roads to access this recreational area. Lehmans Road is already dangerous but will become even more so. The proximity to this easily accessible recreational area was a big driver for buying property on the north side of Rangiora – The risks are increased accidents and near misses, increased car usage in accessing recreational area meaning pressure on car parks and potentially putting people off using this popular area. Lehmans Road has residential properties backing right onto it, including a pre school. Noise, dust and physical risk all increase for those properties.

3) Safety – Pollution

It is impossible to control the spread of all dust and quarry debris in the air. Whilst watering down can control some of the airborne particles, the effects are still going to be felt widely in the adjacent areas. Again look at the population who have recently built and moved in not knowing this quarry was even on the horizon???.....mostly the elderly and families. Poor air quality was not something they envisaged when they bought here. Health is at risk, the outdoor living experience is adversely affected with dust in the air and homes will experience more debris falling on them and increased cleaning requirements.

High winds are common and can't be controlled – that is the nature of our prevalent winds and climate.

4) No forewarning for buyers in area

The adjacent subdivisions are all relatively new. Our house was only completed in March and many more are still not complete. These talks have been going on since 2016 with an agreement met in 2018. Why were council documents not alerting prospective buyers to the fact a quarry would be applied for? Elderly and young families make up the majority of these subdivisions? Those with higher health risks. Those who do not need house prices devalued at no fault of their own? They did due diligence and chose a quiet SAFE area close to a recreational area with easy access.

5) Force House Values Down

House values will go down. Many homeowners in the area will experience reductions in their house values. Whilst Taggarts and the Racecourse may benefit how many local homeowners will lose out. Any argument that this is being done for the community is flawed. 15 years is a long time to wait for your house to regain its value as a result of a quarry nearby. Again, as owners had not been aware of any inkling of a potential quarry at the time of purchase they were unable to make a qualified decision. This is particularly apparent for Westpark where sections have only been on the market in last couple of years, and some still are.

6) The Ashley River extends for many kilometres.

There are large areas, upstream in particular, that are not close to residential areas or recreational areas, and limit heavy trucks close to these residential areas. It is not justified to say that the Racecourse is the only option available and allow the lives of thousands of local people to be affected in terms of health, and safety, enjoyment of their home and economically. Why is the racecourse seeking this option? What are the developers plans for the community and who benefits? Where does health and safety of the local community sit with financial gain for a few?

I am happy to speak at any hearing in the future.

Kind regards,

Claire & Brent Chatterton