

My name is Pete Barber, my wife's name is Marie.

*Teagart Earthenring
joint hearing
5 May 2021*

We are building a house at 2 Clarendon Place, my guess, about half a mile from the proposed quarry. It's not finished yet, but will be in a month or two.

We were told that the commission would take no notice of emotion. That is, unless you can bring evidence of a scientific nature, (and of course experts to present it), to the table, then you are wasting your time.

Well, I am sorry; emotion and lifetime of experience is all I am carrying.

In about February or March of last year I was rushed to Christchurch Hospital with a suspected heart attack. After going through the usual diagnostic procedures, they found that my lungs were filled with blood clots, too numerous to count.

To shorten a long story, they eventually found that the reason for the blood clots was, that I had lung cancer. They said it was just bad luck for a person who hadn't smoked for forty years. But fortunately, they were able to operate.

In July the hospital performed a lobectomy (that's removal of part of the lung). It hasn't been plain sailing, but at the moment I am all clear. At a post operative meeting with the surgeon and others, my wife and I told them that we were building a house, and asked them "Was that wise under the circumstances?" We also told them that we lived on Southbrook Road with twenty five thousand traffic movements per day. They said it was very wise to move away from any major source of pollution and that I should now protect my lungs at all cost. This is just me, I am sure many of the older people in the area have similar stories.

You can imagine our horror and grief we felt when the news of the quarry was announced. We couldn't believe that they could site a quarry in the middle of a residential area like this.

Our research from any number of sites has revealed the following truth. Any inhalation of silica dust can result cancer, silicosis and Tuberculosis.

We know that quarries have to be sited somewhere, but please ask yourselves, "Should the quarry be sited in a residential area at all, particularly one with two large retirement villages/rest homes and an obviously older demographic?"

I have a few questions. *I* don't *really* want the answers, but I would like the commissioners to consider them and seek the answers themselves.

1. Why can't objectors object to the appointed commissioners?

We felt we had very good reasons to object but were blocked from doing so. Why?

Now, my life experiences have taught me that it would have made great sense in appointing at least one of the commissioners from the local community. A local person would have first hand knowledge of the community's customs, habits, visitors - when/how/why, local weather patterns (area by area), and just how the community operates. We have lived in many communities in Southland, Central Otago and Canterbury. All are different. I can assure you.

When this hearing is over, you, the appointed commissioners, will collect your money and go back to where you came from, without so much as a backwards glance. We have to stay here and live with the consequences of your decisions.

2. Is the real reason Taggarts have lodged this consent application, simply to use the racecourse as a storage of material bought in from elsewhere?

Some interesting maths.

Taggarts say they will extract 600,000 to 750,000 cubic metres of material over a 15 year period. In New Zealand a gravel truck and trailer holds about 16 cubic metres of material. At the higher 750,000 cu mtrs, and at 16 cu mtrs per load, this equates to about 46,875 loads over the 15 years. Or another way of putting it; 2930 truck and trailer loads per year, or about 56 loads per week, or about 9 or 10 loads per day. Even allowing for backfill this is a long way short of their 250 loads per day.

Surely these figures indicate that they really want the racecourse for storage of material rather than extraction. This of course means that material could come from other extraction points and the racecourse used as a storage area for this. Not only could we be faced with huge mountains of material (imagine that on a north-westerly day), but the often quoted 15 years becomes irrelevant. Taggarts could be intending to use the site for ever, or at least well into future.

3. As the owner of an affected property, why were we not notified?

I know of at least one other property owner who until recently was not aware of the consent application.

4. The granting of the consent. Is that a foregone conclusion? As objectors, are we just wasting our time? I have a feeling that Ecan is going to ignore what we have to say. Just going through the process because by law, they have to.

Right now, right this minute, Leemans Road is being widened. I am sure this work had been planned for a number of years But doing it right now? Is that just a coincidence? Was the river road sealing (West of Westbelt) carried out because of, or partly because of, the quarry proposal?

We have a number of reasons why we are against the quarry and I will list them here. We haven't included scientific studies, spreadsheets and graphs, or comments from learned experts, (although we have included a support note from our GP). We leave other, more highly qualified people in our group, to do that.

Reasons we are against the proposal.

Health effects of the dust

I repeat from above: Any inhalation of silica dust can result cancer, silicosis and Tuberculosis.

The noise.

The noise will interfere with the quiet enjoyment of my property. Imagine the noise the diggers will make as they dig through the stones. Imagine the noise as the rocks hit the bottom of trucks. Imagine the noise of 250 truck movements per day. Day after day, week after week, year after year.

The danger to our underground water quality

I let others speak to this one.

The danger in the massive increase in heavy traffic
250 trucks is a lot

The difficulty in enforcing any consent conditions
And the lack of will in imposing meaningful penalties for transgressions. Can you imagine trying to phone someone at the council at 4pm on a Friday? They don't even answer their phones. We think, if you were serious, any breach of the conditions would result in the operation being shut down for a period. Multiple breaches would have the operation shut permanently.

Comparative property values will decline
We wonder if Taggarts would be prepared to buy our house. We will sell it for what we paid for it.

The real reason the application is being made
See 2. above.

In summary, I call it insidious home invasion. We should all feel safe in that place we believe is our sanctuary, that place we call home. Nobody should be forced to live in fear.

Durham Health

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MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

22 Apr 2021

Name: Mr Peter Barber.

Address: 4 Pearson Lane .

Peter has had lung cancer and has had a lung lobe surgically removed. He is now left vulnerable to respiratory infections and also to respiratory disease from inhaled agents such as silica dust. I recommend he avoid exposure to airborne dust particles as much as possible.

Dr Angela Stewart

15 Durham Street .

Ph: 03 313 4659

Signed:

