

*Taggart joint  
hearing  
6 May 2021*

**Before the Hearings Panel**

**Appointed by Environment Canterbury  
and Waimakariri District Council**

**Under** the Resource Management Act 1991

**In the matter of** an application by **Taggarts Earthmoving Limited**  
for various resource consents for a quarry at Rangiora  
Racecourse (**Racecourse quarry**) under section 88 of  
the Act

**And** the submission of **The Rangiora Ashley Community  
Board**

**Statement of Chairperson for the Rangiora Ashley Community Board**

Dated: 6 May 2021

**Statement of Jim Gerard QSO, chairperson of the Rangiora Ashley Community Board:**

1. My name is Jim Gerard. I am representing the Rangiora Ashley Community Board, of which I am currently the Chairman.
2. I believe I can represent the views of not only the Board, but the wider Community as well. I have represented this area publicly, except for a brief period overseas, since I became MP for Rangiora in 1984. I have since served, almost continuously as a Rangiora Ward District Councillor, Mayor, or Community Board member.
3. The Community Board unanimously opposes this application by Taggarts for a resource consent to quarry on the Rangiora racecourse. This position has been supported by a public petition of nearly 5000 concerned people. The Community opposition is unprecedented.
4. The Board wants to make it clear it has no problems with Taggarts, just its application. Nor is the Board anti racing. It believes there may be other, more appropriate ways to make it profitable. The Boards sole interest here is in the Wellbeing of it's Community.
5. The Board's Counsel, Andrew Schulte will present the Boards detailed objections.
6. If I may, I would note that the application, a totally unexpected one as far as the Community is concerned, has come at a time when the Rangiora township is experiencing unbelievable growth, and this is predicted to continue. As I understand it from newspaper reports, the deal was signed, with a confidentiality agreement between the parties some years ago, before the rapid growth was really underway.
7. On top of that the District plan is totally out of date, more than 20 years old, and made little or no allowance for such growth, and is right now under review. It never foresaw a quarry in/alongside a major town.
8. The Town's natural North west boundary corner is Lehman's road and River road. Indeed, the planned West by-pass is designed to go through this area, under the power lines, but missing the track. The area the racecourse owns, in time could be a possible potential housing

development area . Even retaining the track, without quarrying, there is room for possible substantial future urbanisation.

9. Already in this area, only about 50 metres from the Course boundary on Lehman's road, is the Holiday Park with some permanent residents.
10. In my view, a quarry operating there would be unbelievable in this day and age. A quarry is a rural operation, not something in, or alongside a major town. I know of nowhere in NZ where that happens. The bunds alone will make it seem like a prison, or hiding some activity that would not sit well in that area. They will likely require a dozer through them in a major flooding event.
11. It is almost inconceivable, in spite of what the RMA, which is itself facing a major overhaul, could possibly allow an activity that any sensible person would know is not in the best interest of the community.
12. The RMA future reform is supposedly, amongst other things, to remove obstacles and make it much easier to make land available for housing. That is what the NPSUD (National Policy Statement – Urban Development) also signals. All the signals point to more land being made available for housing. Granting this would create the exact opposites to the outcomes RMA reform and the NPS seek to achieve. Clearly, from what the President of the local Trotting club is reported to have said., they need the money. Quarrying will do that.
13. I would further comment, that as I understand it, the recent Government report on the racing industry recommended that the CJC (Canterbury Jockey Club) the major shareholder of the Rangiora racecourse, divest itself from the Rangiora course ownership, and invest in Riccarton. Galloping meetings left Rangiora many years ago because of track safety.
14. It is worth noting that the CJC sold off much of its Christchurch non-course land for housing. Such an action here, if permissible, would be one way to ensure the Viability of the Rangiora Trotting club.
15. I conclude my remarks by noting there are other options available to the local racing industry without a quarry. Their business is racing, not quarrying. Taggarts, in my opinion, also have other options.

16. No town needs such an operation within its natural boundaries. Noise, dust, heavy traffic increases, and health risk will likely increase. Such an activity, being established within, or alongside, the logical town boundary, in a time of rapidly changing environmental standards, no matter what may seem as remotely permissible, simply doesn't make any logical sense.
17. The World is crying out for sensible, pragmatic and environmental change. Let's start here, and say no. We are not denying the applicants much, they have options. The Town doesn't.

Date: 27 April 2021

Jim Gerard QSO