

Hearing  
6 May 2021

## Taggart Racecourse Quarry Hearing Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

11:15am – Speaker: Richard Laloli

- I consider that two particular issues, the level of dust exposure and noise level, will greatly impact the local community.
- Taggarts proposed quarry will generate levels of dust that exceed those allowed as a permitted activity. To be approved, a resource consent must provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the impact of dust exposure will be mitigated. I consider the measures proposed by Taggarts to be insufficient to mitigate these adverse effects, which will negatively impact the health of the community.
- In addition, Taggarts have not provided sufficient evidence that they will keep noise levels within acceptable limits. The noise generated by the quarry will be of a nature that will unreasonably interfere with the peace and comfort of the residents, which will have more of an impact as the community expands.
- I recommend that declining Taggarts application on the grounds that it will have an adverse effect on the environment, on dust exposure, and on noise levels, and that no evidence is provided to prove these impacts will be mitigated.

### Precedence and Proximity

- What have they got to do with this application by Taggarts?

We came here, nearly 16 years ago to Lehmans Road. We knew that the Racecourse was nearby 450 metres away. We were aware of the noise associated with it ( commentating mostly ) , but it was only so many days a year. After all, the Racecourse had been here for over 130 years. We could easily accept the precedence and after all, throughout Rangiora's existence it was a staple and essential part of its recreational heartbeat. The nearby airport provided another occasional source of localised noise, but again was well established and therefore accepted as part and parcel of the area. So the Racecourse and Airport were there first. The town, Rangiora, also, has been there for a long a long time and over the last half century has crept ever closer to the Racecourse. In fact, the Long Term Plan sees residential development coming to encompass the northern side of Lehmans Road. ( the side that the Racecourse is on ! ) In the past 15 years, Arlington and lately in the past 5 years, Westpark has been built. Hundreds of residents have built their homes without the SECRET knowledge that Taggarts and the Racecourse owners hoped to establish a quarry smack beside them!

## Precedence / Proximity !

### Proximity

-How close is too close ?

- The Rangiora Camping Ground is just across the road from the proposed quarry; with over 108 permanent residents, plus seasonal tourists. Gee – what they will look forward to?
- 56 beds in accomodation buildings, 10 sites for campervans and caravans.
- Our neighbours (315 ) - 350 metres from the proposed quarry.
- Us ( 285 ) - 450 metres from the proposed quarry.
- Many others on the Rangiora residential side are closer.
- Several preschools and Ashgrove School are not too far away.
- Hundreds of residents are in aged care facilities close by.
- Most of Rangiora's population is within 2 – 4000 metres of the proposed quarry.
- What “set back” is appropriate when the negative industrial aspects of a quarry are involved ?

### Dust and associated effects

My worries about the dust is both about Precedence and Proximity.

Obviously I'm worried about health effects. Also I've got enough to do, without cleaning up after the effects of dust collection on the surfaces of our buildings and everything.

The outside is for living in, not retreating from !

I have a few particular querries about Taggart's quarry operation.

### Dust Monitoring

Taggarts have stated that this will be visual monitoring. The most dangerous particles ( silica ) can't be seen, so a more advanced form of monitoring would need to be in place that would trigger alarms or a complete shutdown till the source was rectified.

Where will a Site Manager be on days or after hours, when the site isn't operational, to initiate any remedial action necessary to stop dust in adverse wind / weather conditions?

Consequences of the Response Procedure, if it isn't adhered to or complaints show no remedial action taken?

Scenerio : Dust being blown over the neighbourhood and no or slow action taken to remedate.

Why is this important to me? - No bund, dust netting or any protection proposed between my property and the proposed quarry operation.

Will there be a phone number or site to contact if a VENM truck has no cover and they are travelling past sending out dust or spilling content?

What is the SOP ( Standard Operating Procedure ) dedicated to the management of potential dust discharged - in regard to the automated dust suppression for dust prone areas that can activated outside of working hours? That one manned water truck? - or a series of sprinklers ready to swing into action? Vague promises ?

They have not elaborated what that SOP is and what will be put into place. I've only "heard" of that one water truck. If it breaks down, is there a back up, or will they resort to buckets ?

No real plan ! – Its not really funny !

### Traffic Effects

Over the years, we've been in Lehmans Road, the traffic has gradually increased, till now, as the Bypass road, it is quite busy. The heavy traffic that uses it is mostly : milk tankers, logging trucks, horse transporters or floats, Rangiora Landscape Supply trucks and others.

None give off much dust. The open trucks seem to have their loads covered so no spillage or dust. This obviously shows that if the quarry goes ahead, two factors will be vitally important :

1. Loads covered always. ( easy done if mandatory )
2. Travel on tar seal - the internal shingle roads of the quarry would be a worry as these would add to the nuisance dust if there is up to 250 truck movements a day. If these roads are sealed, then this would go a long way to alliviating this? ( We don't want to overwork that one water truck? )

At the present, Lehmans is too narrow for the heavy traffic using it. This has forced pedestrians and cyclists off our stretch of the road. Pony riding has virtually disappeared because of the danger involved, this now presents. With the current widening and ( when ? ) the new bypass through the powerlines is built and operational, this will help. Unfortunately Westpark residents and other built up residential areas, will then be closer to the traffic movements, so the covering up of loads will be VITAL ! 250 extra movements a day will also mean increased noise.

Noise effects and associated health concerns.



Noise at present is mostly traffic noise, the occasional race meeting / trials or from planes overhead. Plus being rural, there are sounds associated with rural activity from time to time.

But overall, being rural, it is generally quiet. This quarry proposal will change this – it will generate constant noise and dust which is inconsistent with the rural character. The type of noise associated with industry- actually a very noxious industry!

We have no noise protection from the quarry operation so the noise will be funnelled in our direction. I hasten to add, that quarry noise is also not compatible with the residential zone next door. (Not providing an environment that enhances the residents' health, safety and wellbeing). Taggarts have guessed at a certain noise level but have not got real proof. The reality is that the noise will not be a usual rural or recreational noise, when constant, so is totally unacceptable.

Have they deliberately planned to put this quarry near aged care facilities, because many of the residents are hard of hearing? Any not will soon be! This is, of course, a real worry.

After the quakes and now COVID, people are tired. Many people have shifted out to this part of town, built in the knowledge of what is here before, so they're here first PRECEDENCE.

All of those people weren't aware of a secret plan to change the face of this area, when they purchased and built close to a racecourse – a long established recreational gem! Now about to be renamed: "QUARRY'S END" or "BITE THE DUST".

This quarry proposal is having a huge impact on people's health and wellbeing. Our retirement plans for our property were to enjoy our purpose-built B&B, surrounded by five acres of established, nurtured gardens. Not now, next to "QUARRY'S END". In fifteen years, I will be in my eighties, if I live that long, so close to it.

We are already victims of this process, feeling forced to make decisions regarding our homes – emotionally and financially draining.

## PRECEDENCE

We were here first!

The preexisting residential areas on basically three boundaries of the proposal were there first.

The current use of the land as a recreational facility for the area is the first priority and

should stay that way.

The camping ground was there first, as well as its residents.

The operating businesses, preschools and schools were there first.

The Aged Care facilities were there first.

A quarry and its noxious operations were not and should never be!

## PRECEDENCE AND PROXIMITY

We were here first.

I oppose all the applications and am astounded that Taggarts and the Racecourse Management have let our established community down!