

Joint hearing
7 May 2021

Quarry Submission

Marrilyn Benton

My name is Marrilyn Benton and, with my husband Edward, I have lived in Noble Close, Rangiora since April 2012.

I am a retired registered nurse.

Our previous home was destroyed in the 7.1 magnitude earthquake on 4th September 2010.

We then, in good faith, bought a section in Rangiora and built a new home. We believed that we were moving into a lovely country town and were looking forward to joining the community there.

Had we known that in under 10 years a second quarry would be proposed on the boundary of this small town, we would not have moved here.

Should this quarry be consented it will be operating 500 to 600 metres from our home.

As residents of this community we are deeply disappointed that our fellow citizens ie the Rangiora Harness Racing Club have so little regard for our health and quality of life. As members of this community they want us to attend their race meetings to increase their financial viability and yet they treat us in this way.

I am not "anti - Quarry", neither am I "anti - Racing " - I am however anti the placing of a second operating quarry this close to residential homes, rest homes, schools and play centres.

My greatest concern is the environmental and health effects of dust, which will be generated by :-

- removal and shifting of overburden
- removal of gravel
- delivery and spreading of backfilling material
- windblown dust from bare excavated land and stockpiles
- vehicle movements in the quarry, especially but not exclusively those on unsealed roads.
- increased dust from crushing and screening of the additional gravel from the Racecourse Quarry at the Cones Road Quarry
- loose dry dust falling from trucks and uncovered loads during transit.

Since moving from Christchurch to Rangiora we have become aware that Rangiora has a lot more dust coating the exterior and interior of homes, than we experienced in Christchurch.

Our home in Christchurch was a 50 year old bungalow with wooden doors and window frames, a concrete tile roof and brick exterior.

Our Rangiora home has double glazed aluminium windows and doors, a solid well sealed aluminium front door, a tile roof and brick walls.

Dust on the exterior brick walls and glass surfaces is extremely difficult to remove. The dust on the windows and doors requires careful cleaning - repeated wetting with clean water over several hours and then washing with a soft car brush and mild detergent to avoid dulling and or scratching of the glass. This process requires regular repeating, 4 weekly in summer and 6 - 8 weekly in winter to avoid "build up" on the glass.

Outdoor dining and entertaining requires frequent cleaning of our outdoor furniture to remove dust and grit.

Inside our home requires frequent dusting, as in the summer especially dust builds up within a couple of hours of dusting due to the opening of doors and windows.

To begin with we thought that all of this dust was due to construction as we were surrounded by new home builds.

It soon became obvious that this was not so, and as the months and years went by the dust deposits remained unchanged.

Both my husband and myself have experienced worsening conjunctivitis, and rhinitis, and an irritable cough, since living in Rangiora. Both of our dogs experience streaming eyes, and running noses after walks.

We understand that the current dust comes from pollen, the Ashley River bed, forests, the current Taggart Quarry and industrial and agricultural activities.

What I am saying is that in this dusty environment - we don't need more DUST !

I have read the proposed quarries "Air Quality Management Plan" (AQMP) and am far from reassured by it.

During dry and or windy conditions a water cart / water tanker will be used for dust suppression.

From this I assume that the watercart /water tanker may not necessarily even be onsite.

How will this vehicle apply water to all sources of dust at once ie :-

- Clean fill stockpile
- Aggregate stockpile
- Bunds
- Current excavation area
- Haul roads and dusty trucks
- Any loose material onsite
- Seeded but uncovered areas
- ? Also racetracks

When any 2.5 hectare area has been excavated, a 5 acre area or an area the size of two international rugby fields will be left exposed, and the consent holder has six months to cover this in grass or a suitable vegetation. It will require regular watering until vegetation covers it.

I find it hard to believe the reassurance that we will not be troubled by dust from the Quarry when the planned bunds in gusty northwest winds will funnel the dust over an unobstructed path across Arlington Park and up Noble Close. North west winds trend in this way already.

Water carts will not prevent that.

I worked for 30 years as a Recovery Ward Charge Nurse and fully realise the difficulties of attracting and retaining on-call staff expected to return to work in the middle of the night. What happens in "trigger events" when they are short of staff ?

Also are these water carts also going to be used to settle dust on the racecourse for training and racing horses - what will take priority ?

I have spoken to a horse owner/trainer about how his horses will cope with this change in their environment. He told me that his horses will be terrified by excess dust coming in their faces as they run.

These animals are top athletes and need fully functioning lungs like any other athlete for optimum performance.

Dust and PM10 and PM2.5 at whatever levels they occur, will affect them just as they would a human.

Globally no-one has been able to say what levels are always safe for PM2.5 inhaled by humans.

The US Environmental Protection Agency's national ambient air quality standards state that as long as a person breathes in an average of 12 micrograms of PM2.5 per cubic metre or less per day over the duration of a year they should be safe.

Imagine trying to achieve that safety level.

In the PDP letter of response to Adele Dawson dated 27/01/21 in Section 8 Effects of dust discharge on the Rangiora air shed PDP stated that PM2.5 discharge would be negligible as the only source was the maximum of 6 vehicles onsite daily. Perhaps they could explain what happens to the PM2.5 emissions from the diesel motors under heavy load that make the 240 trips daily between the quarries.

Dr Kelvin Duncan states in 'Evidence CRC 181274 Road Metals Quarry Expansion March 2018'

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"Activities that may generate RCS (Respirable Crystalline Silica) include

- Excavating
- Loading
- Tipping or transporting
- Back filling

Any one of these activities could result in the release of RCS to the air.

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11. We can conclude that sandstone (Greywacke) is a very rich source of RCS and it is liberated by normal quarrying activities even when blasting is not employed."

According to Dr Duncan's beliefs RCS will be released at the Racecourse Quarry if it is consented.

My husband and I watched the entrance to the Cone's Road quarry where vehicles enter on a road between the bunds. A strong north west wind was blowing and most of the water dispensed by the water cart was immediately blown up into the air going nowhere near the dusty road that needed watering.

Can anyone tell me how a water cart can water the "offside" of a 5 metre high stockpile in high winds ?

Can anyone tell me where all this "water suppressed dust" goes ? Is it sitting on the ground at the quarry drying out and waiting to be blown into the air again. Where does it go ?

In the AQMP "visual monitoring" is mentioned as a daily task and also when needed.

There is no mention of how this is done, or how to ensure that this visual assessment is consistent, accurate and reliable.

The CDHB have stated that if we have an underlying health issue like hay fever, asthma, respiratory, cardiovascular disorders or inflammatory eye conditions that worsen should the quarry be consented and commence operation, then we should stay indoors and close windows and doors. LOVELY !

I have a senior neighbour with a cardiopulmonary condition - does this mean she must be indoors for the rest of her life. She has the most wonderful garden that she tends daily herself - it is the love of her life and without it her happiness and mental health will really suffer. Is this what we can look forward to at the end of our lives ?

I have a dear little eighteen month old neighbour who is a real little outdoor "Guy". He loves nothing better than being outside playing or "driving" his toy motorbike.. If this quarry goes ahead I will be devastated for him. He deserves better than this, he deserves to breathe in safe air at the beginning of his life.

We have a relaxing time in our garden and work hard to grow our own vegetables. It's our way of life and if this quarry is consented the increased dust will make it impossible to grow some vegetables and those that we do manage to grow will need to have the sticky dust washed off them. Dusty days will send us indoors as well.

Living indoors with windows and doors closed will cause the growth of mould inside our home and you don't need to look far to find out about the adverse health effects from living in a mouldy home.

If we are forced by environmental dust effects to spend much more time indoors we will be forced to use our heat pumps far more frequently than we would wish to cool or heat our home and circulate air.

A heat pump installer told us that our heat pumps will suffer more rapid deterioration and need servicing more often and replacing much sooner than we would have expected. The dust will clog up the radiator fins in the outdoor units.

I ask that the Racecourse quarry consents be declined.

I have terminal cancer and have been given one to two years to live. I shouldn't be here, I should be up north with my family creating memories, but I am here because I feel so strongly about this proposed quarry and the individual rights of our fellow citizens in this town.

The greatest freedom to me is the right to self-determination.

The right to live where I wish, without being forced to live somewhere else so as not to be affected by the actions of an inconsiderate few.