

joint hearing
7 May 2021

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To: Hearings Commissioners:

Paul Rogers (chair)

Reginald Proffit

John Iseli

Submission by Marilyn Davison

Good afternoon

My name is Marilyn Davison. I originally started the petition in the library as I had received a number of queries from people while working at Citizens Advice who knew about the on-line petition but did not have computers and wanted to have a voice to say "no" to the proposed quarry at the Rangiora racecourse.

I love living in Rangiora and I am very passionate about my community – I have 3 voluntary jobs as well as being a JP, and love helping people in the Waimakariri district. I am very concerned about the proposed quarry and the effects it would have on the mental states, health and wellbeing of the people in the district due to noise and silica dust pollution. Most of us have been through the trauma of the earthquakes, especially those of us who have come from Christchurch, as well as Covid, and we just want a peaceful life.

In my submission today, I am going to emphasise the importance of COMMONSENSE in my decision to oppose the ridiculous proposal by Taggarts Earthmoving to establish a quarry in the middle of the Rangiora Racecourse.

My husband, Phil, will be addressing the scientific evidence that confirms that such a quarry would greatly affect local residents and in fact the entire community.

Commonsense is defined as:

- a. Normal understanding.
- b. Good practical sense in everyday affairs.
- c. General feeling of mankind or community.

1. It is not commonsense to operate a quarry close by and inside an operating racecourse. Horses and heavy machinery simply do not mix.
2. It is commonsense to consider the health and welfare of both the horses working in that environment and all those people located nearby.

I read a quote from Canterbury District Health Board Health Protection Officer to E-Can dated 13 March 2019:

"The Canterbury District Health Board's responsibility is to promote the reduction of adverse environment effects on the health of people and communities and to improve, promote and protect their health pursuant to the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956. This complements the purpose (s5) of the Resource Management Act 1991, to promote the sustainable management of resources in a way which enables communities to provide for their health and safety."

3. It is not commonsense for the Waimakariri Council and E-Can to allow a change in the racecourse zoning – presently rural to heavy industrial use as proposed.

Landscape and Amenity values are a personal thing but it is clear that anyone thinking of using the racecourse as an amenity will think twice once the negative effects are known, and the negative effects are obvious. Of course we are also concerned about property values.

Much could be done to support the Racing fraternity and perhaps use peripheral land to establish a native forested area as are Hurunui with walks and cycleway. That would attract birdlife to enhance harness racing going on already. We support such an approach – what do you think?

4. It is commonsense to keep quarries well away from residential areas when there will be adverse effects from dust, noise, truck and machinery movements will negatively impact on our peoples' physical and mental health.

5. It is not commonsense to pretend that dust has little negative effects while larger dust particles may not go far; it is the smaller particles of dust – the respirable crystalline silica (less than 10um) that can pass down the very smallest of the airways causing a variety of diseases. Importantly these are invisible, acts as a gas and travel long distances.

Pollen is evident on many Rangiora streets well away from the racecourse. Very fine pollens can travel up to 1,500 kms because it acts as a gas and is drawn into wind flows. How on earth can it be claimed it can be restricted by bunds (which direct it further upwards as do truck movements. Light dust and very fine dust particles act as a gas – and is subject to the same forces as pollen. Pollen reports for 3 types of pollens are made available daily with predictions to advise those susceptible. How come this does not apply to quarry dust?

6. It is not commonsense to pretend that NOISE will not profoundly affect local residents. 120 truck movements a day and the noise of operating machinery as well as the noise from incoming backfill from all over Christchurch will destroy the peace existing now in many roads and streets over Rangiora and elsewhere. ALL THE EXTRA NOISE AT CONES ROAD – with local residents they are already badly affected and been complaining for years. Noise is clearly a factor in the mental health of all those subjected to excessive and unreasonable levels – having a cumulative effect. Paid consultants claim that it is little more noise than happens now – NO – this will be on top of what happens now.

- a. Lehmans Road is a by-pass road already carrying large logging trucks, milk tankers and private vehicles. 120 truck and trailer shingle truck return movements will impede these flows.
- b. It will also impede the buses that run regularly along River Road from the Park and Ride located there to the West Belt.
- c. Otherwise outside contractors apart from Taggarts will be bringing materials in to fill up the deep holes. Quality provisions set out for other quarries in New Zealand have been regularly broken or ignored. There are insufficient people available to authorities for reliable oversight, particularly after working hours.

- d. Dust will be moved onto local roads and will be stirred up with the truck movements. It has electrical charges on finer materials that cause it to stick onto where it lands with the finer dusts ending up in human lungs.
 - e. Trucks are noisy and intimidating for many. This means little left of the existing general peace and quiet enjoyed by residents. No doubt there will be serious accidents.
 - f. The road involved will deteriorate quickly and therefore need increased maintenance, no doubt paid for by the ratepayers.
7. It is NOT commonsense to allow any quarry to excavate to 1 metre of the high-water table. Canterbury gravels are very permeable and already our underground aquifers supplying our drinking water has been polluted within the quarry area.
8. It is NOT commonsense to further pollute our rivers and aquifers by even more large irrigation schemes. Water is an increasingly scarce resource that must be protected. This enables water pollution.
9. It is NOT commonsense to expose susceptible aged people and infants to windblown dust, both of small and large size. All such residents are exposed for longer periods than are quarry workers.
10. There are shortages of backfill in Canterbury now to fill up the large holes, it will never be able to be properly inspected and monitored. It will import further pollution into quarry excavations close to the existing water levels. Backfill has never been achieved elsewhere and will allow contaminants into the underground water supplies. Commonsense tells you this is stupid when the area of land involved provides a back-up water supply for Rangiora itself.
11. Commonsense tells you that while necessary, quarries are noisy, dusty and a major source of pollution. This is what has happened in the many quarries that have proliferated around Templeton and Yaldhurst and around Christchurch in spite of the vigorous protesting for years by local people. In fact they are correctly described as NOXIOUS and TOXIC Industries overseas.

12. Here it is important to point out that Quarries and the shingle they produce are of course important to our community – with the additional social benefits that they clearly provided. With the jobs they provide we are not against them per se. But commonsense suggests that rather than go through the expensive and prolonged process of trying to persuade a very sceptical population that their negative effects can be mitigated to cause little harm as proposed by highly paid Quarry consultants – we should accept how quarries are treated internationally. There they are kept WELL AWAY FROM PEOPLE. The Canterbury Plains are made of shingle. JUST MOVE AWAY FROM PEOPLE. Quarries and people do not mix – just like Quarries and horses.
13. Commonsense tells you that Democracy is the basis of our communities. But what seems to be happening is that the political considerations of both Councils and E-Can are being side stepped with final decisions to be made by 3 independent Commissioners. This may suit Bureaucrats to avoid responsibility – but this is the antithesis of DEMOCRACY.

I Quote from Canterbury District Health Board Health Protection Officer to E-Can dated 13 March 2019:

"Quarrying has the potential to cause a number of health effects if not managed effectively. The most common symptoms experienced during a period of high dust exposure are irritation to the eyes, ear, nose, throat and upper airways. Small or fine particles (i.e. particles less than 10 um) can get deeper into the respiratory tract and lungs and may cause breathing-related problems."

I Quote from Kelvin W. Duncan, PhD:

"We all agree we need quarries, that is a given, but like many human activities, quarrying must be carried out in ways that do not endanger the health and well-being of workers and others. Other countries manage this; why can't we?

Their operation close to community housing causes disease and harm."

Fortunately communities have multiple protection from harm in legislation as:

That all population groupings, regardless of age, race, colour, religious persuasion, citizenship or residency have undeniable human rights that protect their right to life. Therefore any action by any organization for any reason be it financial profit or the accumulation of land holdings is unacceptable. Then as those reasons are counterproductive to the common good they therefore fail any consent proposal.

Doing otherwise places the consent organization in an inevitable position of supporting big business and accepting huge consenting fees, then by such actions they could be sentencing a potential death sentence on those they are supposedly sworn to protect by their actual consent processes and the rates forced upon those people who are at risk.

In conclusion: We do **not** want our peace shattered by the constant noise and silica dust pollution proposed for the next 15 years and we should **not** be subjected to it. Silica dust is an established health hazard.

People have a right to be kept safe from harm.

Thank you

Marilyn Davison

Copies submitted to 3 Commissioners:

Paul Rogers (chair)

Reginald Proffit

John Iseli

+ 12 others