



Aggregate News

PLANNING

Any significant activity these days requires consent in some form or another to ensure that activity is in accordance with the relevant plan. Planning therefore has been very much to the forefront of the AQA over the past few months and the following activities have been undertaken:

- Industry Planners Forum. The AQA proposes to bring together early in the New Year, those persons involved in planning within the industry to share the issues that confront them and to establish better lines of communication. While acknowledging there may be issues of commercial sensitivity, the Council believes that there will be many areas where the experience of one can assist the others.
- Further, it is an opportunity to alert others to activities of one local or regional authority which may have adverse effects on the industry, and be emulated by other authorities. The ability to communicate on matters of mutual interest can only benefit all members of the AQA and allow us to be proactive in this area.
- Planning Blueprint for the Future. The Council is working with Local Government New Zealand and the Ministry for the Environment, to produce a Guidance Note for the MfE website, that will detail the best practice for local and regional authorities when considering applications for consent involving quarries. This is seen as a proactive step to minimise the cost of each application and to set a benchmark in this area.
- The first phase of this project involves developing a discussion paper and it is anticipated that the Planning Forum mentioned above, will be a part of this development. The AQA has been able to source some funding from MfE to assist in the development of this paper and project.
- Members will be advised of the ongoing activity in both of these areas, which together will place the industry in a better position to meet the planning challenges of the future.

ARC AGGREGATE STRATEGY FORUM

Five members of the AQA Council attended a half day strategy session with the ARC and other interested bodies in November, on the future supply and development of aggregate in the Auckland region. The session and the invitations are believed to be a direct result of the Conference, "Foundations for the Future" document, and the increasing AQA generated publicity on this issue.

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Wednesday 8 July -
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PLANNING ACTIVITY

The AQA has been involved in the following planning activities in the past few months, either in support of a member's application or just on its own.

National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission

Submission delivered on 29 November 2007. To be advised date of hearing

Taranaki Regional Policy Statement

AQA submitted on proposed policy statement and Council have recommended to adopt AQA's proposed changes. Hearing held on 16 October 2008. Expect decision early 2009

Draft Wellington Regional Policy Statement

Submitted on Policy Statement to seek specific provisions and policies are made for aggregates and minerals in the Policy Statement. Date submitted 5 April 2008. Submissions closed 16 May 2008. GWRC are currently summarising and preparing responses to submissions .

Horizons Regional Council - One Plan

Attended Overall Hearing on 1 July 2008, decisions from hearings to be released mid to late 2009

Wellington City District Plan - Plan Change 64 (Kiwi Point Quarry)

AQA submitted in favour of plan change 64 on 21 July 2008. As all other submissions were in favour of the plan change no hearing was held. Council has approved the decision and was publicly notified on 6 November 2008.

Waingaro Road Quarry Extension

AQA submitted in favour of the quarry extension on 24 July 2008. Hearing was held on 8 September 2008. AQA did not attend as the processing planners recommendation was for approval. Statutory timeframe for determining the application has been extended to 21 November 2008

Hurunui District Council

AQA submitted in opposition to the plan change on 2 September 2008. AQA made a further submission on 29 October 2008 in support of Winstone Aggregates and Fulton Hogan's submissions. Council advised AQA will attend the hearing to be held during the week of 8 - 12 December 2008.

Auckland Regional Council

Harrison Grierson finalising feedback on the Auckland Regional Policy Statement and Preparation of a new Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy. Feedback delivered by 14 November 2008.

Table 1 Quarrying & aggregate production: economic impacts

	Gross Output \$000	Value Added \$000	Employment Number
Direct	549,867	240,132	1,890
Direct + Indirect	1,076,384	455,024	4,967
Direct + Indirect + Induced	2,161,548	720,275	9,707

Notes: Based on 2003 inter-industry data
Source: NZIER

Aggregate & Quarry
Association of New
Zealand Incorporated

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Aggregate News

Economic Analysis of the Quarrying and Aggregate Production Industry

The Council commissioned NZIER to complete an economic analysis of this industry. The report will be available in hard copy early in the New Year and the following is the Executive Summary.

Direct Impacts

The industry produced 45.4 million tonnes of aggregates in 2007, worth an estimated \$550 million. Production has been increasing over the current decade due to growth in demand for roads and construction. Over half of output is used for roading, and 21% (a quarter by value) for construction of residential and commercial/industrial buildings.

Associated with this output is:

- employment of 1,890 persons, with average earnings in 2005/06 of over \$49,000 per annum, 25% above the national average
- value added of \$240 million (the equivalent of the industry's Gross Domestic Product (GDP))

Indirect & induced impacts

Indirect effects arise from the demand by the quarrying and aggregate production industry for inputs from supplier companies – i.e. every dollar of quarry and aggregate production requires additional output elsewhere in the economy.

Induced effects arise from expenditure out of the incomes generated in quarrying and aggregate companies and their suppliers.

We estimate these effects through the application of *multipliers*, which show for each dollar of output in the quarrying and aggregate production industries, how much additional output is generated through indirect effects (Type I multipliers) and induced impacts (Type II multipliers). Equivalent multipliers are used to estimate effects on employment and value added.

The results are shown in Table I overleaf.

In total, direct, indirect and induced economic impact of quarrying and aggregate production resulted in \$2,162 million of output throughout the economy 2007.

This in turn resulted in 9,707 jobs (0.5% of total employment) and value added of \$720 million (0.4% of New Zealand's GDP).

The industry's medium-term prospects will be influenced by two key factors. On the upside, there will be sustained demand for roading materials (given the commitment of the Government to investment in infrastructure). On the downside demand for materials for construction of houses and (to a lesser extent) commercial buildings will be weaker.

A critical element of the industry's ability to deliver the required outputs is its access to quarrying land, ideally close to where construction is occurring (as aggregates are low value relative to weight, increasing the distance over which they are transported from quarry to construction site adds significantly to costs).

Access to such land is subject to the normal processes of the Resource Management Act, at the local (District/City Council) level.

We note by way of comparison that in the state of Victoria, state planning documents explicitly identify land suitable for quarrying on the periphery of urban areas. The effect of this is to facilitate quarrying within identified zones and provide access to low-cost material close to urban growth areas.

Aggregate & Quarry
Association of New
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From the Mind Boggles Department

The item below was recently published in The Australian and is reprinted to show what you may have to go through, to obtain a contract. Can you imagine the Privacy Act, Human Rights Act and Employment Relations Act implications if this came to New Zealand?

Uses and abuses of personal statistics

BERNARD SALT
DEMOGRAPHER



IN politically correct Britain last month the University of Manchester changed the signage on toilet doors. Apparently transgender students complained that the terms male and female made them feel uncomfortable. As a consequence toilets in the student union building have been relabelled toilets and toilets with urinals.

When the head of the student union was questioned as to whether this was not being just a tad too PC she haughtily replied that the very question was both genderist and disablist. And you thought the whole PC thing had gone too far in Australia.

But wait, there's more.

One of the policy objectives of the Greater London Authority initiated under former mayor Ken Livingstone was diversity in the workplace. Nothing unusual about that. Until of course you learn exactly how far such a policy can extend when provided with the right incubation.

All local councils in metropolitan London must reflect the policy aspirations of the authority. In pursuit of diversity councils monitor the workforce composition of potential contractors. The bottom line is that if you want contract work with council you must fill out what is known as a Diversity Monitoring Form (DMF).

Basically, councils want to know the number of men and women in different income bands in any organisation bidding for contract work. Other questions relate to age and ethnicity. Assembling this information might seem tedious but you can sort of see the point: it is a good idea to encourage diversity in the workplace.

Then the DMF ventures beyond the mandatory and into the optional. There is a section in the form that asks potential contractors to specify the number of employees by sexual orientation. Yes, that is correct. I did say sexual orientation, and just in case a respondent is unclear about the information required there are boxes tagged bisexual, gay, metrosexual, lesbian.

To ensure that absolutely none is left out there's even a helpful line that says: "If you prefer a different term let us know." Notice how the boxes defining sexual orientation are listed alphabetically. You wouldn't want anyone thinking heterosexual has some sort of priority over bisexual.

How do you think an Australian firm would respond to such an information request? The question is optional but its very existence means that someone somewhere thinks this is a fair question for an employer to ask of an employee. Perhaps I am just a hick from the colonies but I cannot imagine an appropriate form of words that could elicit such information.

"Hello and welcome to ABC Company. Could you please fill out the personnel form detailing your particulars? Oh, and don't forget the section on your sexual orientation."

That we need to know the number of gays, lesbians and heterosexuals in the community is not in dispute. After all, these numbers could drive policy decisions concerning health, family, lifestyle and even matters of social justice.

However, the appropriate authority to collect and validate such information is surely not the employer.

Even if workers did volunteer information about their sexual orientation that could be aggregated in the DMF, how accurate would it be?

This is not to suggest the idea of canvassing the breadth of diversity in the workplaces is flawed. Quite the reverse. For example, another section of the DMF requires prospective contractors to enumerate employees with disabilities by disability type.

This is valuable information since disabilities of vision, hearing, mobility and physical co-ordination might lead to changed work practices and to office furniture modification. These adjustments help integrate those with disabilities into the workplace and ultimately improve productivity.

Yet, curiously, whereas the options for sexual orientation are arranged alphabetically (presumably so as to not push-poll responses) the disability options are arranged haphazardly.

For example, vision disability is listed ahead of hearing and mobility disability. Why obsessive neutrality in matters relating to sexual orientation but not other areas?

Apparently the practical response to the more contentious parts of the DMF by prospective contractors is that they simply say they do not collect that information.

But here is the point: someone thinks this information either should or may be collected by the employer. It also prompts the question as to whether councils are in a position to answer the questions they ask of others in the Diversity Monitoring Form.

In many respects it's hard to argue against political correctness. Information about diversity is right up there with information about the environment: it's all for the greater good.

Yet there comes a point when the objective becomes subordinate to the process. This position seems to have been reached, by Australian standards at least, in parts of the Diversity Monitoring Form.

Perhaps this priceless piece of bureaucratic ephemera will not make its way to Australia (along with the idea of labelling toilets as toilets with urinals), but unfortunately I suspect some of the thinking behind it is already here.

Apparently London's new mayor, Boris Johnson, is reviewing many of the policies of the previous administration, but the content of the Diversity Monitoring Form is not (as yet) up for review.

Former mayor Ken Livingstone is reported to have become an urban planning adviser to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

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