

Aggregate News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The start to 2009 has definitely seen lumpy business conditions, however there are signs of good things to come from the new government. Our industry should be well placed to contribute to, and benefit from, the announced infrastructure spend. I would like to think that the message we have been promoting, of our industry providing the foundation for New Zealand's prosperity, has been acknowledged by some.

I took the opportunity to review our strategy in early January along with Jason Lowe our Vice President. We both believe we are still on the right track and the strategy the AQA formulated in late 2007 is still relevant. Along these lines, Jason and I were invited to speak at Institute of Quarrying Southland, and Waikato, regional branch meetings in February.

This was an opportunity to show others in our industry what the AQA is doing to promote ourselves as well as update everyone on the myriad of initiatives being worked on by the Technical subcommittee.

The formulation of a Planning subcommittee has been a major new initiative for the AQA board. Mike Lord, from Perry Resources has taken the challenge to lead this subcommittee. A planning forum is being held late in March as the first step in developing industry planning guidelines in collaboration with the Ministry for the Environment and Local Government New Zealand.

I see this initiative as a major move away from the reactive approach currently used in applying the Resource Management Act, toward a more proactive, commonly agreed set of standards that would see a level playing field for everyone. You will hear more from the AQA about this project in the months to come.

In this edition, there is an article from the UK showing that quarries are the most opposed form of development, with an 80% disapproval rating. It is vital that we continue and try our hardest to prevent that attitude in this country.

Two important measures are the MIMICO Environmental Excellence Award and the Quarrying & Mining Community and Social Sustainability Award. Both are proof to the community and Government that this industry takes these matters very seriously and is actively promoting excellence in these areas.

I ask you all to consider entering these two awards which will be presented at this year's conference.

James Boyce

Aggregate & Quarry
Association of
New Zealand
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COUNCIL

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James Boyce
Holcim Aggregates

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Jason Lowe,
Winstone Aggregates

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Bruce Taylor,
Fulton Hogan

QUARRYNZ 2009

Joint IOQ & AQA
Conference
Invercargill
Wednesday 8—
Friday 10 July 2009

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

Horizons Regional Council - One Plan

Work Completed: Attended Overall Hearing on 1 July 2008

Upcoming Deadlines: Decisions from hearings to be released mid to late 2009.

Taranaki Regional Policy Statement

Work Completed: AQA submitted on proposed policy statement and Council have recommended to adopt AQA's proposed changes

Upcoming Deadlines: Hearing held 16 October 2008. Expect decision early 2009

Project Name: National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission

Work Completed: Submission delivered on 29 November 2007

Upcoming Deadlines: To be advised date of hearing

Project Name: Draft Wellington Regional Policy Statement

Work Completed: AQA submitted on proposed policy statement on 5 April 2008. Submissions closed 16 May 2008.

Upcoming Deadlines: GWRC are currently summarising and preparing responses to submissions.

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

Work Completed: 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 6 November 2008.

Upcoming Deadlines: Nil

Project Name: Waingaro Road Quarry Extension

Work Completed: 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. Decision was released on 26 November 2008 to grant the application.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman
Mike Lord
Perry Resources

Members
Yet to be appointed

Upcoming Deadlines: Nil

Project Name: Hurunui District Council

Work Completed: 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. Hearing was held on 9 December 2008, AQA was represented by one of their members in Christchurch.

Upcoming Deadlines: Council to release decision of hearing in early 2009.

Project Name: Auckland Regional Council

Work Completed: AQA provided feedback on the Auckland Regional Policy Statement and preparation of a new Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy on 11 November 2008. ARC posted a summary of all feedback on their website in mid December 2008.

Upcoming Deadlines: A draft of the RPS and RLTS is to be prepared by ARC in early 2009.

Project Name: Environment Bay of Plenty

Work Completed: AQA provided feedback to EBOP's Issues and Options Paper on the Regional Policy Statement to recognise and have greater provision for aggregates and minerals in the RPS on 22 January 2009.

Upcoming Deadlines: A draft Regional Policy Statement is intended to be produced in May 2009 for further submissions.

Project Name: New Plymouth District Council

Work Completed: Harrison Grierson is to prepare a submission on the New Plymouth District Council Rural Review Discussion Document to AQA by 20 February 2009. To be lodged with Council by 27 February 2009.

PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTES

The AQA is concerned that there is a wide range of interpretation by local authorities in the planning area. It has commissioned Hill Young Cooper to work with AQA, Ministry for the Environment and Local Government New Zealand, to develop Guidance Notes on planning, operation and getting resource consents for quarries.

These Guidance Notes when published, will provide a strong lead for local authorities in this area. A Planning Forum has already been held to identify the issues that need to be addressed and a Planning Conference, involving regional and local authorities and the industry will be held within a couple of months.

The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE—MARCH 2009

The Technical Committee is fast becoming re-established within the industry and that is pleasing to see, given the hard work that the committee members have contributed in getting it back up and running. It was agreed at the last committee meeting on 18th March, that the time was right to develop a 5 year strategy for the technical committee and we are working hard on having that ready for the AGM in July, so it appears that we are here to stay

A key focus of that strategy is working with other Industry organisations for the benefit of our members. A great example of that was the Asphalt Plant Accreditation Scheme (APAS) fact sheet that we developed in conjunction with Roding New Zealand and which was included on the AQA website in December. This is one of several initiatives that we are currently working on with Roding New Zealand and I am hoping to have some healthy debate on APAS in the AQA technical session at Conference.

We are also close to being able to publish the information submitted by members on the availability of coloured aggregates in New Zealand. This information was requested by the Cement and Concrete Association (CCANZ) who frequently get asked by architects and others what is available and where, so hopefully those members that have contributed may see some enquiries come their way.

Another important focus for the Committee is the development of specifications and a key one that we are currently involved in is the review organised by NZTA of the TNZ M/4 specification and the development of the T15 Repeat Load Triaxial specification.

Many of you will be aware of the work that Dr Greg Arnold has put in to developing the RLT test in New Zealand. I am representing the AQA on the steering group for reviewing and implementing these specifications and I will keep you updated. Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments or input that you would like taken in to account.

We also have an interesting project that is making good progress run in conjunction with the University of Auckland and Roding New Zealand. Prof. Phillipa Black has recently completed the first part of an ambitious programme to link the geological characteristics of New Zealand rock types to the engineering properties. It is envisaged that this will become an important reference document in the future and the North Island geological document is due to be published soon and again it will be available for download from the web.

Finally, we have instigated a pilot study for implementation of a PSV database. This database will allow members to update their PSV information as they get new test results, along with being able to give a history for their quarry source. It is effectively an Industry self regulation tool and we have been talking to NZTA who see it as a very positive move by the Industry and we believe it is a step forward from what is currently available. Again, we are hoping to have the pilot database up and running by Conference so I can update further.

Aggregate & Quarry
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Chairman

Jason Lowe
Winstone Aggregates

Members

Greg Arnold
Pavespec

Jayden Ellis
Stevensons

Robert Patience
Higgins Group

We will continue to try and look after the best interests of the Industry and all being well I look forward to catching up with many of you at Conference in Invercargill.

Any questions on any of the topics above or that you believe are important to the Industry please contact me at vicepresident@aqa.org.nz.

Jason Lowe

QUARRIES NOW MOST OPPOSED SECTOR IN UK

Dateline: March 18th, 2009

BRITISH attitudes have hardened against various types of land development, particularly quarries, even in the midst of economic recession and with the promise of new jobs that such projects can bring, according to the latest UK Saint Index – an annual survey on public attitudes to development.

The 2009 survey carried out by The Saint Consulting Group in January/February found that quarries have reach a new all time low, for the first time beating casinos and power stations as most disliked form of development in the UK.

Each year the Saint Index survey asks 1,000 members of the public across the UK whether they support or oppose development across a wide range of industries, in order to produce a NIMBY (not in my back yard) 'hate list', which ranks the projects most opposed, and a NIMBY 'approval rating', which produces a net finding of support or opposition.

According to the latest survey, the aggregates industry's NIMBY approval rating has dropped from –61% in 2008 to –80% this year, leading all other property sectors by six percentage points as the most opposed type of land use. This deterioration is despite efforts by the industry to make the link in public perception between quarries and the essential nature of the products they produce.

In the 2009 report, the greatest opposition to quarries was found to be in eastern England (91%) and South East (90%). The survey also found that the older the age group, the more against quarries people tended to be, while social class and voting intention had no major bearing on the level of hostility.

According to Saint Consulting, it appears that overall general opposition to development may have reached a plateau at 85% of the population, but Britain's hardcore contingent of active NIMBYs (ie those who have actually objected to a development project in the last 12 months) has increased to 21% of the population.

'NIMBYism in hardening in Britain,' commented Nick Keeble, UK vice-president of The Saint Consulting Group. 'Although it is possible we may have reached the high-water mark for general opposition, those that are against development are becoming more aggressively active in opposing schemes nationwide...and that's bad news for everyone involved.'

COUNCIL MEETING—MAY 2009

The next Council meeting will be held in Wellington on 20 May.

Any member who has any item for the next meeting, please contact either a member of the Council or the Executive Director.

ENERGY BEST PRACTICE

AQA has secured funding from the Energy & Efficiency Conservation Authority to conduct four pilot energy audits and to develop from those audits, energy best practice and bench marking tools.

Information on the project and how to participate is being forwarded top all members separately.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is a key tool in any industry and as can be seen from the UK article earlier in this document, there is a continuing need to get out message out to both the politicians and the general public.

To achieve this, AQA have contracted the services of Carol Delaney, who has many years experience in providing communications and public relations services to a wide range of government and corporate organisations.

A communications/PR plan is being developed which will also include coverage of the QuarryNZ Conference in Invercargill.

In addition, the AQA President and Executive Director have met with representatives form CCANZ, NZMIA, and Roding NZ, to exchange views on a number of issues and to further cement relationships between these organisations. It is planned to have such meetings on a regular bi-monthly basis.



Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill
Wednesday 8—Friday 10 July 2009

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