

October 2006



Aggregate News

A New Era for the AQA

What you are now experiencing is a leap forward for the Association in the manner in which we can communicate with you, the members.

Things may have seemed a little quiet of late but a lot has been happening behind the scenes.

First, the Association has installed new database software which amongst other things, allows me to email the members direct, either in total or selecting a particular region.

This will have great benefits for sending out newsletters as it will save time, money, effort and hopefully a forest or two.

More importantly however is that we can now get the information to you so much quicker.

You may recall that over the past few months you were asked to update your membership information including the local and regional authorities. This was done so that if we hear of something happening in a local council, we can select the members in that area and email an alert.

Another benefit is that newsletters such as this, are easier and quicker to produce and dispatch, so you can expect more of them.

Those members who do not have email will receive theirs by fax and post will be used as a last resort.

Finally, if you need to update your contact details, drop me a line by email, fax or post so that we can always contact you.

IoQ & AQA 2007—Hotel Bookings

A reminder for the organisers that a quantity of rooms have been booked for delegates attending the Conference in Wellington next July.

Some hotels have reported inquiries from delegates seeking to secure some of this accommodation.

The hotels have been advised that rooms secured can only be booked through the organisers

Web Site

The current AQA web site is currently being redesigned and the Council will be considering proposals at its next meeting to provide information on and promote the industry.

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DIARY DATES

2007

IoQ/AQA Joint
Conference
Wellington
Wednesday 11 July -
Friday 13 July

2008

IoQ/AQA Joint
Conference
Auckland
Dates to be advised

Legislation Update

In the last Quarry News, there was a list of legislation that can impact upon members. Since that time, there have been some changes as follows:

Kiwi Saver Bill

This was passed into law on 7 September although the implementation date has been delayed.

Employment Relations Amendment Bill

This is the "90 day trial period" Bill and Select Committee reporting date has been changed to November.

Employment Relations Amendment Bill

This Bill dealt with the protection of certain categories of employees when a business is sold or contracted out. The Bill was passed into law on 13 September.

Minimum Wage (Abolition of Wage Discrimination) Bill

The Select Committee reporting date has been put back to March 2007.

Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill

The previous edition included a copy of the submissions made by the Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand in respect of the above Bill. The submissions were circulated for the information of members but did not necessarily reflect the views of this Association.

The Association has made submissions on the Bill and which can be summarised as follows:

- Part 3 Waste Control Authorities Not supported
- Part 4 Prohibition on Disposal of Materials—Not supported
- Part 5 Waste Disposal Levy — Not supported but if introduced, some requirements defined.
- Part 6 Extended Producer Responsibilities— Supported
- Part 7 Organisational Waste Minimisation Plans—Not supported
- Part 8—Public Procurement—Supported
- Part 9 Public Reporting— Supported

Attached is a copy of the Associations submissions on the Bill. The Select Committee is due to report back by 13 December 2006.

Territorial Authority Planning Reviews

As advised in previous editions, many local authorities are undertaking the planning review and this may well have implications for members. The Association has established links with a planning consultancy who has represent members jointly with other associations and organisations, to provide evidence on the proposed plans.

Further, a monitoring process is in place to identify any issues that may arise in a local authority area so that action can be taken.

.It is important that the opportunity to make submissions is taken and the Association will provide written support for members making submissions, in addition to any submissions that may be made by the Association.

Modern Health Care

Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement

The first patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week

The second sees his family doctor, after waiting a week for an appointment, the waits eighteen weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray which isn't reviewed for another month, and finally has his surgery scheduled for a year from then

Why different treatment for two patients?

The first is a Golden Retriever.

The second is a Senior Citizen

Submission on the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill 2005 31st August 2006

The AQA

The AQA was formed in 1969 in response to the need for an industry group that could represent aggregate suppliers on a range of issues and liaise with specifiers and end users of the material. The AQA is an incorporated society, with councillors elected from member companies around New Zealand; the AQA's Executive Director works from its office in Wellington. The AQA has over 80 member companies, which between them produce over 75% of the aggregate and allied raw materials used in New Zealand. The AQA is concerned with all aspects of the extraction, processing, transport and use of all types of aggregate both natural and artificial, including sand, gravel, crushed rock and any allied material as well as recycled aggregates.

The object of the Association is to provide an organisation through which the members of the aggregate industry may coordinate their efforts in the handling of problems of common concern including the investigation and consideration of aggregate resources, the use of manufacturing techniques and processes, the maintenance of good industrial relations, and the needs of all users and prospective users of aggregate. In furtherance of its objects the Association shall undertake all actions considered conducive to the attainment of those objects including:

- Information
- Standards
- Staff training
- Technical Education
- Research
- Statistics
- Market development
- Industrial relations
- Affiliation
- Safety
- ***Representation – represent its members before any tribunal, board, commission or divisions of Government (emphasis's added for clarity of this submission)***
- Assistance to and cooperation between members
- Purchase property
- Borrow money
- Remunerate
- Invest

Introduction

AQA does support all initiatives that would lead to sustainable waste management practices; in particular the AQA supports waste minimisation in the quarrying and construction industries in New Zealand. However, AQA does have concerns about parts of the proposed Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill 2005 (“the Bill”). These concerns are set out below.

Part 5 - Waste Disposal Levy

AQA does not support the introduction of the waste disposal levy (“the levy”) because the benefits of such a levy are not clear. However, if the levy has to be introduced there are some prerequisites to make it work:

1. AQA would support clause 41 of the Bill if the amount of the levy was to be set by a dedicated Waste Minimisation Authority.
2. AQA would like to see the addition of a clause that the levy must also apply to any “cleanfills” that receive more than 500 tonnes of fill per annum. The reason for the 500 tonne threshold would be to allow disposal of “earth, soil or fill from small roading works” adjacent to those works in appropriate locations, generally rural. Without this, the first perverse outcome of the levy will be diversion of a clean fill from landfills, where it is used as a daily cover, and also divert some wastes to be illegally deposited at cleanfills. This applies particularly to construction and demolition wastes.
3. AQA believes that the levy to be collected by the disposal operators should be paid direct to the Waste Minimisation Authority (“the Authority”) rather than to the relevant Waste Control Authority (“the WCA”) as the Bill proposed in clause 43 (1).
4. AQA disagrees with Clause 44(1), where the Authority can use 50% of the funds for their own operations and to have an opportunity to subsidise business etc. AQA believes that 100% of the levy should be used through a contestable process to fund waste minimisation initiatives nationally, so that the most sustainable projects get priority. Clear, transparent rules should be set how the funding is distributed. The model could be based on the Transfund funding of road-ing.

Part 3 - Waste Control Authorities

AQA does not support establishment of Local Waste Authorities, these functions are already covered by TLA’s under Resource Management consent requirements and do not require further compliance costs.

Clause 22(h) provides for a waste disposal levy being introduced on a local level. If WCA’s are able to introduce individual levies, the outcome will be increased cross boundary movement of waste, using more fuel and damaging roads, which is not in the community’s best interests. If a levy is introduced, it should apply to the country as a whole, i.e. a national levy.

Part 4 - Prohibition on Disposal of Materials

AQA believes that Part 4 should be removed from the Bill altogether as it is impractical. Firstly, would a disposal operator be responsible for police the prohibition? Secondly, what happens if a waste material banned from the landfill is not usable or marketable? The outcome of Part 4 could be sudden increase of illegal dumping grounds for tonnes of waste banned from disposal, or export of waste materials to the third world countries where such ban is not in place.

Part 6 - Extended Producer Responsibilities

AQA supports Part 6 of the bill. In its opinion this Part of the bill may result in biggest benefits towards more sustainable waste management practices in New Zealand. However, AQA believes that the requirement under clause 61(2) for 75% recovery is unachievable for many products in their current state. AQA believes that waste minimisation goals could be achieved through extended producer responsibility schemes. Further, AQA encourages aggregate and concrete recycling and a product stewardship programme could easily be achieved through association membership. AQA endorses product stewardship on a commercial contract basis.

Part 7 - Organisational Waste Minimisation Plans

AQA believes that Part 7 is over prescriptive. If enacted it will be a costly exercise to everyone involved and possibly the biggest generator of waste paper in the country. Organisational Waste Minimisation Planning can either be left to the individual organisations involved, or conversely Organisational Waste Management Plans should only be required with RMA consent or Building consent applications.

Part 8 - Public Procurement

AQA strongly supports this requirement and the programme should be extended to TLA's. The policy should be reflected through all departments and required of all consulting and advisory agencies. Where a recycled product meets the specification and price, preference should be afforded the recycled product as a means to support waste minimisation markets. Engineering contracts which are determined on a weighted attribute basis should have a significant weighting for waste management plan, recycling and/or separation at site, on site reuse and use of recycled materials.

Part 9 - Public Reporting

AQA supports this requirement to report procurement and waste minimisation activities as triple bottom line reporting. The requirement should also be incorporated into every public body departmental management employment contract as a key performance indicator and/or bonus measure. Effective buy-in to waste minimisation only works when it is wholly endorsed by the top management.

Conclusion

In conclusion, AQA does not support those Parts of the Bill referred to above, although we do support sustainable waste management practices in New Zealand.

Appearance Before Select Committee

AQA does wish to appear before and be heard by the Select Committee regarding our submissions on the Bill.