

Aggregate News

AGGREGATE & QUARRY ASSOCIATION OF NZ NEWSLETTER

Message from Mike Lord

The following report is a slightly abridged version of the President's report at the AGM in Napier.

In these difficult economic times, the AQA has continued to deliver on the strategy it formulated in September 2007. Key objectives of the council are:

- talking from one set of numbers
- raising our profile with central and local government and the community
- consulting with other organisations/associations to promote our story, our issues, and our importance to New Zealand's ongoing development
- improving technical competency and work with other agencies to ensure that products specified are appropriate for the job
- ensuring central, regional and local governments are planning for aggregate extraction in the future, and
- continuing to advocate health and safety and training for our members.

On all of these fronts I believe we have made good progress.

Our two committees, Technical and Planning have had busy years. The Technical Committee led by Jason Lowe and Robert Patience has continued to develop relationships with other national organisations. AQA now has a strong cross association with all major industry groups in NZ that utilise aggregates in various ways and forms.

We now have direct representation on the National Pavements Working Group which includes NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) and major consultants and roading contractors. This group over the next year will be looking at revision of NZTA standard specifications on basecourse and subbase aggregates. AQA is also represented on the roading testing standards steering group which is looking at reviewing NZ Standard NZS 4407 on the sampling and testing of roading aggregates. AQA's involvement in the revision of aggregate specifications and standards will mean direct aggregate and quarry input for the better interests of members.

AQA Technical Committee has also been involved and provided input into two NZ publications directly related to aggregates, one being the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) funded Aggregate Inventory Study (North Island) jointly between AQA, the University of Auckland and Roding NZ, which was presented at the recent NZ Institute of Highway Technology greener roads conference. And we have jointly published with RNZ the QA of Aggregates for Roads, which provides a succinct summary of all aggregate testing requirements related to roading in one document.

Both of these documents are available in the technical section of the AQA website, www.aqa.org.nz

>> more overleaf



AQA Council

President

Mike Lord, Perry Aggregates

Councillors

Geoff Callis, Ravensdown

Jason Glentworth, Holcim

Tony Hunter, Blackhead Quarries

Jason Lowe, Winstone Aggregates

Robert Patience, Higgins Group

Eric Souchon, H G Leach & Co

Bruce Taylor, Fulton Hogan

Planning Committee

Chairman

Mike Lord, Perry Resources

Grant Anderson, Holcim

Kevin Bligh, Winstone Aggregates

Jonathan Green, Fulton Hogan

Technical Committee

Chairman

Jason Lowe, Winstone Aggregates

Greg Arnold, Pavespec

Jayden Ellis, Stevensons

Robert Patience, Higgins Group

Alan Stevens, Roading NZ

Colin Taylor, CCANZ

Message from Mike Lord continued

A major accomplishment of the AQA Technical Committee this year was the launch of the PSV website database. This is much like the old Transit NZ (now called NZTA) PSV wall chart but in a modern filterable web based format. It also has the ability to include other aggregate source property test results which has the potential to build up a source history relating to quarries in a region that clients and consultants can search for.

Challenges ahead for the Technical Committee include managing contentious contractual specification issues in the manufacture and supply of aggregates in a proactive manner, and also lifting awareness in process control of aggregate production within the industry.

The Planning Committee has been as equally busy. The two major pieces of work being:

- Planning Guideline for the Aggregate and Quarry Industry
- monthly planning alert for members.

The Planning Guidance note was officially launched in Parliament by the Minister for the Environment Nick Smith on the 31 March. This launch was the culmination of 16 months of work for the AQA Executive and Planning Committee. The Planning Guidance note was developed to give planners and individuals involved in planning decision a reference tool as to the realistic effects and mitigation strategies for extracting aggregates. A second major goal of the Planning Guideline was to promote and highlight the importance of aggregates to regional and local government. The Planning Guideline is on the Quality Planning website hosted by the Ministry for the Environment.

Another key area of the Planning Committee's work has been to involve itself in regional and district plan reviews. It is the AQA's strategy to actively take part in regional planning policy changes and reviews, but with the sheer number of districts to leave this to members. The reason for this is that district plans need to put into effect the policies of the regional plan, so if we get that right, district plan reviews should be considering future aggregate supply. To ensure members are aware of upcoming changes and reviews to district plans, AQA has set up an early bird notification system which will notify us of plan reviews and proposed changes that may affect our members' current and future activities throughout New Zealand. This system is now in place and members are

Aggregate News is distributed to AQA members, relevant members of parliament and to industry stakeholders and local authorities. If you have contacts you think would like to read it, please let Roger Parton know: Roger@aqa.org.nz

Please contact editor, Carol Delaney Carol@aqa.org.nz with any information you think would be interesting to readers.

receiving notification of proposed plan changes which could affect their operations on a regular basis.

Other AQA council members involved in industry groups are Tony Hunter who is our representative on MinEx, the extractive industry's Health and Safety Council, and Bruce Taylor who represents us on EXITO, the extractive industry training organisation.

MinEx major projects worked on this year have been:

- developing of an industry safety database
 - updating the surface code of practice and industry guidelines, and
 - an overhaul of the Surface Certificates of Competence.
- EXITO again has completed another successful year with:
- increased numbers of trainees
 - increased number of companies using EXITO
 - restructure of the board to accommodate other sector groups, and
 - forming and managing the Sector Advisory Groups (SAGS).

Training is a crucial part of our industry's ongoing success and we need to be continually developing the skills of our workers.

We have continued regular meetings with CCANZ, Roding NZ, NZMIA, and Straterra. This dialogue is important to ensure we get a unified approach, and to date we have benefitted greatly from the support of these other organisations.

One of our key strategies that we haven't directly spoken about has been improved communication and profile with our customers' stakeholders, central, regional and local government. Basically, selling our story. This strategy has been central to all of the work that we have undertaken. We are proactively taking our message to all of these groups and we will continue to do so.

I would like to thank Roger Parton for the commitment and professionalism that he exhibits in his role as Executive Director. I also want to thank all of the Council members and their companies who allow them to do the good work on behalf of industry. Winstone Aggregates, Fulton Hogan, Blackhead Quarries, Perry Resources, Ravensdown Fertilizer Cooperative, HG Leach & Company, Higgins Aggregates, and Holcim New Zealand all have allowed their staff to participate in the AQA council and this generous support is acknowledged.

Mike Lord, **PRESIDENT**

Are you prepared?

At the September joint meeting of the IoQ and AQA members from Canterbury talked about their experiences following the earthquake. They passed on heartfelt encouragement to others to ensure they are disaster prepared both at home and at work.

Business owners have a responsibility to ensure preparations are in place for their workers. The Ministry of Civil Defence says "it is not an option to be unprepared. Disasters do happen, but you can 'make the mess less' and hasten a return to normalcy through prior planning..." You can review your emergency management plan and supplies on http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/memwebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Being-Prepared-Businesses-Index?OpenDocument



Quarry NZ Conference 2010

The conference annual awards were made and this year two major awards went to Winstone Aggregates' Hunua Quarry: the MIMICO Environmental Excellence Award and the Quarrying & Mining (Q&M) magazine's Community and Social Sustainability Award.

Hunua Quarry is the largest of Winstone Aggregates' quarries in the Auckland area, producing 20-25% of the region's total demand. It was acknowledged by the MIMICO Environmental Excellence Award for the development of an Overburden Disposal Area (OBDA) to accommodate 650K cubic metres of overburden. However the area was outside the quarrying zone and in full view of numerous neighbouring landowners.

It was a major industry turnout in Napier this year with more than 350 delegates who were treated to excellent, thought-provoking presentations, interesting field trips and some fine dining and networking.

The proposal's strength was the way local iwi and the adjacent landholders and wider community were involved. The use of new visualisation technology greatly assisted the community to assess the proposal's impacts – potentially significant given it involved changing the height of a ridgeline and altering the profile of the landscape.

Presenting the MIMICO Environmental Excellence Award Dr Morgan Williams, Principal, FutureSteps and former Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment commented, "this project has made a significant contribution to environmental sustainability through demonstrating what is possible with good design and close engagement with iwi and community at all stages."

Q&M Magazine's Community and Social Sustainability Award and cash prize also went to Hunua Quarry, and recognises outstanding efforts in neighbourly relations that go beyond consent obligations, says Q&M magazine editor Alan Titchall.

"It is about recognising close community and social relationships in terms of good business practice and giving credit to an industry that deserves a lot more recognition and respect than it usually gets in the public eye.

"Predicting strong opposition to consents, management set up a community relation project and a level of social sustainability that, we believe, is a model for this industry."

Winstone Aggregates not only won awards but presented one too. The Winstone Aggregates Safety Award was presented to Brian Bouzaid, who has been operations manager at Holcim's Kiwi Point Quarry for the past 16 years. Brian received the award for safety initiatives that including documentation, implementation, participation and also the commitment from both management ownership shown by his staff.

And yet another Winstone Aggregates employee, AQA's Technical Chairman, Jason Lowe who is National Operations and Manufacturing Manager was awarded the Lynn Jordan Memorial Trophy for the best technical paper.



Proud General Manager of Winstone Aggregates, Bernie Chote, about to present the Winstone Aggregates Safety Award. Winstone Aggregates collected three awards, two for Hunua Quarry and one for staff member Jason Lowe for best technical paper.

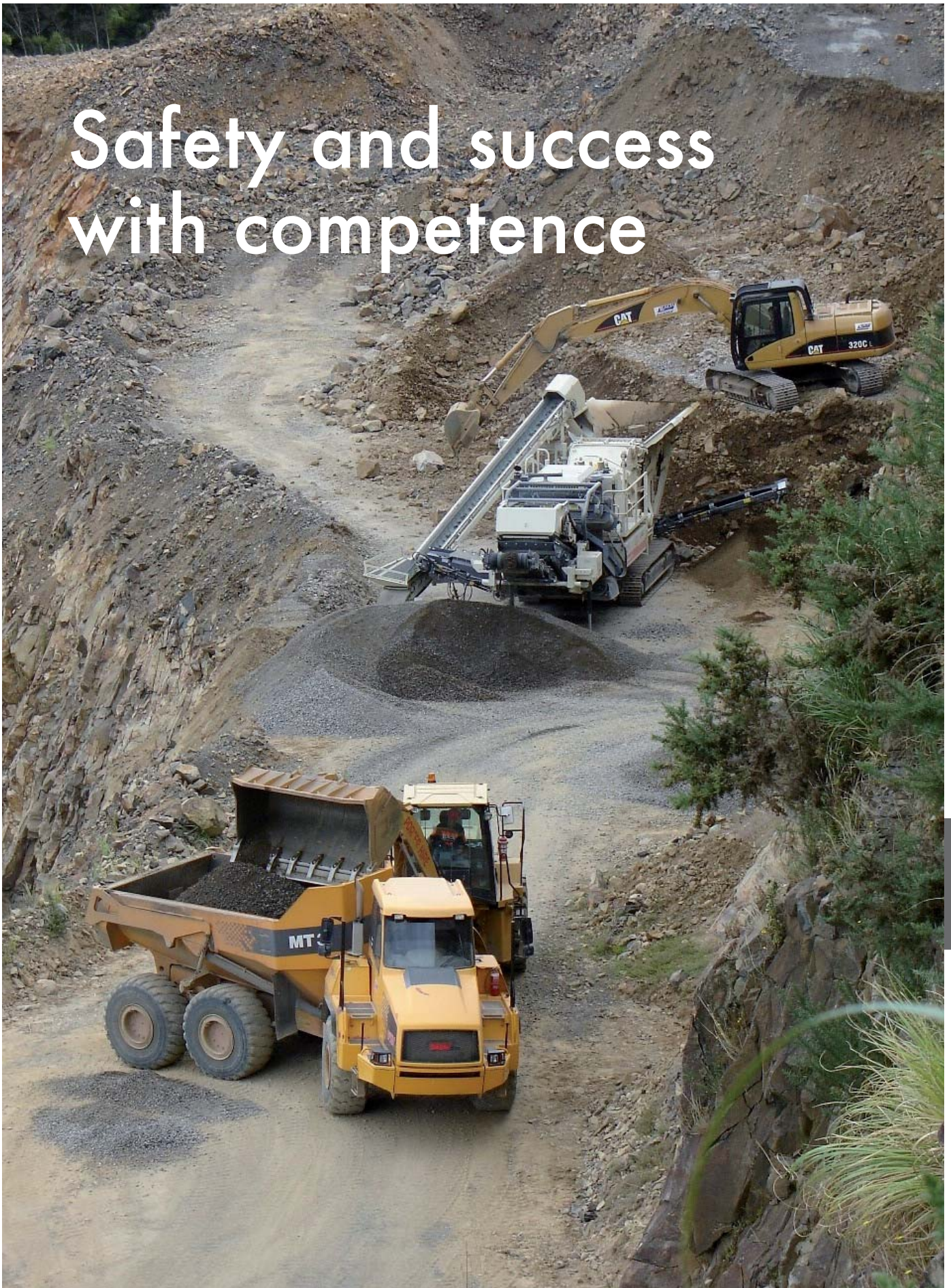


Big thank you to this year's conference committee

They did a great job and this year's Quarry NZ Conference in Napier had it all – from top class presentations, great social events through to a television lounge for the soccer world cup fans and a fantastic coffee cart. Now that's a hard act to follow. Thanks guys, you did us proud!

From left: Rob Webster, Websters Hydrated Lime; Jason Glentworth, Holcim; Simon Hird, Winstone Aggregates; Roger Parton, AQA Executive Director and Conference Registration and Finance; Judie Webster; Andrew Robertson, Amalmo; Pat Mattinson, Sponsorship and Exhibition Co-ordinator and Adrian Mattinson, Manager – Conference Secretariat, quarry organisers, and local conference chair Hans Hollis, Holcim.

Safety and success with competence



This year's Quarry NZ Conference focused on advancing the industry through competence, quality, and safety - topics that are all close to the heart of the industry as several major health and safety initiatives begin:

- an increase in OSH inspectors nationally (see More OSH inspectors for quarries on page 8), and
- the proposed Certificate of Competence for Surface Mine Managers.

Keynote speaker at the conference, General Manager of the UK Institute of Quarrying Mike Phillips presented his paper: Competence - Setting the Gold Standard. Mike discussed the need to provide a safe working environment for employees and contractors through training, education and providing a means of demonstrating competence.

In line with this approach, New Zealand is also addressing health and safety through competence. A MinEx Health and Safety Working Party have reviewed the current gazetted Surface Certificate of Competence (CoC) for the industry.

ACC Work-Related Claims).

Tony Hunter, General Manager with Blackhead Quarries in Dunedin and AQA's representative on the MinEx Board said: "There is no getting away from the fact that our industry is a dangerous one and we must have rigorous safety management in place. We also need programmes that help staff to understand that safety measures are vital and that their actions become links in the safety chain of events.

"The industry has got to improve its health and safety performance and right now it has the opportunity to do that by self regulation...But if it fails to do so,

"There is no getting away from the fact that our industry is a dangerous one and we must have rigorous safety management in place."

regulation will be imposed, that's for sure."

The proposed new CoC framework has been developed from first principles and started from the selection of nine core competencies required for a competent surface mine manager. It has been designed to account for modern thinking

by March 2011.

There are currently around 1350 CoC holders, of which some 900 are life-time holders. The remaining 450 were issued under the current unit standard framework. All current CoC holders will be affected by this proposal.

Under the proposal all existing surface mine managers will need to meet the new requirements within a transition period of five years from the date of gazetting (expected by 31 March 2011); ample time to achieve the new qualification.

Meanwhile the Department of Labour's OSH Inspectors will be working with

managers using an assessment tool that will show the level of compliance and the areas that need further work. If a follow-up visit is required, the inspector will use the same assessment tool during that visit to measure improvement.

Said Tony Hunter: "the AQA is committed to improving health and safety in the workplace. We and encourage members to see the value in having an expert eye cast over their operation and to implement required improvements with haste."

Tony says that if anyone wants to discuss health and safety issues with the AQA they can make contact with him by contacting, in the first instance, Executive Director Roger Parton on roger@aqa.org.nz.

"We are planning to develop a health and safety section on the AQA website and are keen to hear from members who have programmes, ideas and tips to share with others in the industry," said Tony. "Send your ideas to Roger on the email above."

There have been reports that some CoC holders are still unaware of the proposals, can you please ensure all those on your site are informed. Full information is available on www.minex.org.nz/

The review, part of MinEx's overall strategic review of the industry's health and safety performance, has the objective of taking greater responsibility for safety directions and outcomes.

As an industry sector, mining is certainly over represented in accident statistics. The mining industry's ranking is in the top four NZ industry sectors over the last five years for accidents per 1000 full time equivalent employees (measured by

around health and safety and is a blend of knowledge, experience and practicality.

The CoC requirements are pitched at a level which is achievable by both small and large operators and will ensure a much safer working environment.

The review has been circulating for comment and MinEx will review the proposal and will then submit the formal document to the Department of Labour. It's hoped the new framework can be gazetted

More OSH inspectors for quarries

During the remainder of this year and next year the Department of Labour will be undertaking an initiative to work with a large proportion of New Zealand's quarries to establish their levels of compliance in regard to their obligations under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE Act) to provide a safe workplace.

The visits will focus on:

- safe machine operation including machine guarding
- workplace noise management
- quality employment arrangements supported by employment agreements, and
- compliance with Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) requirements.

The department's aim is to establish both the level of compliance as well determining the range of hazards in the quarrying industry. This will help the department to determine whether health and safety in quarrying should become a priority sector under the Workplace Health and Safety Strategy, or whether there are specific hazards or workplace practices that require the department to take a different and more intensive approach to achieve improved compliance.

The number of reported serious harm accidents and fatalities in quarrying over the past five years is set out in the table below. The department's goal for the quarrying industry is that it has low and reduced injury rates, demonstrates effective safety culture and best practice health and safety systems, as well as having healthy employment relationships.

Nineteen experienced health and safety inspectors nationwide will be focusing on the initiative. They have all worked together and received extra training to ensure consistency of approach. They are supported by technical expertise.

The inspectors will use an assessment tool that will show the quarry manager the level of compliance and the areas that need further work. If a follow-up visit is required, the inspector will use the same assessment tool during that visit to measure improvement.

Each quarter the Department of Labour will provide an update on progress in this initiative.

Thanks to the Department of Labour for its help in the preparation of this article.

Following the AQA Council meeting in September, several members commented that the quarry they work for has already been inspected and that health and safety inspectors are taking about five hours to check the site and talk to staff. Requirements are stringent and time frames for correcting issues are tight. AQA encourages all members to accept the inspections and consequent findings as necessary to today's industry where health and safety are paramount. It will assist you to see the assessment tool inspector work on www.aqa.org.nz/Publications.asp



The chain of responsibility is being rattled

The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) is putting emphasis on overloaded vehicles and quarry companies with weighbridges should be particularly cautious, especially if they have warned the driver who ignores the advice and takes no action. In this type of situation the Company may be liable and therefore should consider using a stamp or other warning notice to prove that the driver had been informed.

The chain of responsibility has been around for a long time, but as with all things requirements get relaxed and operators can become complacent. The following is taken from the NZTA website (www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/chain-of-responsibility/docs/chain-of-responsibility.pdf):

Traditionally drivers and operators have been the focus of compliance enforcement authorities, but breaches are often caused or influenced by the actions of others.

The chain of responsibility recognises that all the people who

influence drivers' behaviour and compliance should, and must, be held accountable. This includes directors of companies.

Under the chain of responsibility, responsibility is shared, and not transferred. Existing responsibilities of drivers and operators will remain in place.

The link in the chain of responsibility for each trip can potentially include the:

>> consignor >> operator >> packer >> loader
>> scheduler >> dispatcher >> driver >> receiver.

You are part of the chain of responsibility if your actions, inaction or decisions affect road transport operations.

'Third parties' – users or customers of a transport service – are included in the chain. If an offence is committed by your employee, agent or contractor, the offence may be treated as having been committed by you both, whether or not it was done with your knowledge or approval.



Planning projects update

HGCL ref: 1020-122427-10

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: The ARPS has been under review since 2008. Because of the changes to the way the Auckland region is governed, which come into effect on 1 November 2010, the ARC has decided not to publicly notify the draft ARPS. Instead the final draft of the reviewed ARPS will go forward to the Auckland Council for its consideration after 1 November 2010. This means there will be no public consultation on the draft document in the term of the current council. The new Auckland Council may wish to consult on all or some of the draft policies as it develops a planning framework for the region.

HGCL ref: 1020-122427-11

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: Draft RPS was released for comment in February 2010. Comments closed April 2010. Notification

of the Proposed RPS is anticipated in Late 2010.

HGCL Ref: 1820-128293-01

Project Name: Palmerston North City Council

Work Completed: Submission lodged on 13 March on PNCC District Plan Review Discussion Document to provide greater provision for aggregates and minerals.

Upcoming Deadlines: Council to prepare issues and options papers based on issues raised in submissions. There will be opportunities for the public to become involved. Once the District Plan has been reviewed, a new proposed District Plan will be prepared and publicly notified under the RMA. The public will again have the opportunity of lodging submissions to the Council regarding the proposed District Plan.

HGCL ref: 1820-128362-01

Project Name: Environment Waikato Regional Policy Statement Discussion Document

Work Completed: Submission lodged with Environment Waikato on 9 April.

Upcoming Deadlines: Feedback on the 'working draft' has been received. Now working on proposed RPS, due for release in late 2010.

HGCL ref: 1820-129000-01

Project Name: Horowhenua District Council
Plan Change 22 (outstanding natural landscapes and features).

Work Completed: Draft submission document issued 23 October. Submission lodged 2 November 2009.

Upcoming Deadlines: Summary of submissions was released in February 2010. Further submissions closed 31 March 2010. Council has initiated a peer review of the landscape assessment upon which the Plan Change is based. Hearing not expected until 2011.

HGCL ref: 1820-129138-01

Project Name: Kaipara District Plan – Full District Plan Change

Work Completed: Submission lodged 18 December 2009 (Acknowledged via email)

Upcoming Deadlines: Further submission period has closed. Hearing reports released 30 April 2010 (as emailed through 03/05/10). Hearings occurred in June 2010, AQA did not attend.

HGCL ref: 1820-129141-01

Project Name: Tauranga City Council – Full District Plan Review

Work Completed: Submission lodged 4 Dec 09. (Acknowledged via phone.)

Upcoming Deadlines: Hearing scheduled May – October 2010. AQA have advised do not wish to be heard.

AQA website

Visitor numbers on the up and up

Have you looked at the AQA website recently? It's had a bit of a makeover and the association is using it more and more as an information tool. Take a look on www.aqa.org.nz.

The Polished Stone Value database - the most current and extensive source of PSV information in NZ – is on the website has had 547 hits in the past three months. It is on the technical section of the site.

If your information isn't on the database yet, email technical@aqa.org.nz for a spreadsheet and fill it in with as much information as possible. The more information and history you can complete the more confidence it will give about the consistency of your products.

Once it is complete simply email back - by doing this you automatically agree that the AQA can publish your data. Be sure to keep a copy so that you can revise it over time.

The database will be updated on a monthly basis, ensuring that the information contained is always current. If you need to update the information you have supplied, simply amend the spreadsheet and send it to AQA.

If at anytime you wish your information to be removed, just send an email request and it will be removed on the next scheduled monthly update.

Another database getting plenty of visitors is the Coloured Aggregate Database : 513 in the past three months. But it doesn't have enough content yet – if you have coloured aggregate then

you would be wise to have your information added to the database in the technical section of the site. Again, email technical@aqa.org.nz for details.

Being listed on these databases provides a service to industry customers, costs you nothing and may bring you business.

To ensure continual effectiveness of these resources, and the website as a whole, we would appreciate any comments you may have – contact AQA Executive Director Roger Parton on roger@aqa.org.nz.



Calling all members

The AQA is planning a new section of the website for images, and one of these will be former quarries that have been rehabilitated. If you have any photographs of former quarries we would like to see them, with a brief caption about the life of the former quarry, when it ceased and the form rehabilitation has taken.

Please send your contribution to Carol Delaney, our Communications Advisor, on carol@aqa.org.nz.



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the Aggregate & Quarry Association
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