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Planning for the Aggregate and Quarry Industry FAQs

What is Quality Planning?

Quality Planning is a partnership between the Ministry for the Environment with the New Zealand Planning Institute, Local Government New Zealand, Resource Management Law Association and New Zealand Institute of Surveyors.

The purpose of Quality Planning website is to promote best practice to RMA practitioners by sharing knowledge about all aspects of practice under the Resource Management Act (RMA).

Who uses Quality Planning Guidance Notes?

The website and guidance is for council practitioners and consultants, environmental managers and others involved in resource management and planning practice under the RMA.

What is best practice?

Sometimes best practice will emerge from success, but often it is the mistakes and failures in practice that point to better ways of doing something. Best practice, therefore, involves identifying pitfalls, and learning from any mistakes made so that they aren't repeated.

Who looks after the Quality Planning website?

The Quality Planning website is owned and administered by the Ministry for the Environment and managed with the help of the Quality Planning Management Panel, which consists of representatives of Quality Planning partners.

What instigates a Guidance Note?

Guidance notes are typically developed where a gap or need for guidance on a subject or area is identified by the Ministry for the Environment or the Quality Planning Management Panel. This is then scoped to confirm the need before any further work is undertaken.

In the case of Planning for the Aggregate and Quarrying Industry, the Aggregate and Quarry Association initiated and funded the development of the initial draft Guidance Note. This was done in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment and Local Government New Zealand, as a way of promoting best practice to deal with the complex range and scale of resource management issues associated with the aggregate and quarry industry.

Once drafted, the note was provided to the Ministry for the Environment to complete the Quality Planning process. This included reviewing the draft note to ensure it was in a consistent format and structure. The Ministry also obtained the input of planning practitioners who undertook peer and editorial reviews of the Guidance Note, helping to ensure the robustness of guidance.

Why was there a need for guidance?

A lack of knowledge and experience in the interpretations of effects, their management and mitigation, has seen the quarrying industry have its fair share of issues when dealing with quarry related activities under the RMA.

This lack of knowledge and experience has added excessive costs and delays to the consenting of quarries and quarrying activities. The consultative process of the RMA, although important, has seen community and environment groups, who want stronger protection for the environment, delaying the consenting process at little cost to themselves often over matters that are not evidence or effects based.

Criticism by the industry has also been aimed at the way councils have implemented the RMA in district and regional plans and the variety of approaches being taken to environmental issues.

What does Planning for the Aggregate and Quarrying Industry cover?

The Guidance Note: Planning for the Aggregate and Quarrying Industry - outlines the key matters in planning for quarrying, describes the key effects of quarrying and the methods available to manage those effects under the RMA. This includes examples of objectives, policies and methods used to address these issues across a number of regional and district plans in practice.

How does the Quality Planning website help?

The availability of the Planning for the Aggregate and Quarrying Industry Guidance Note will help increase planning practitioner's awareness of issues relating to quarrying, and the methods available to manage them, when dealing with plan making and resource consent processes.

The availability of online guidance means that it's widely accessible to practitioners and can also be updated to reflect practices and case law much more quickly as it evolves, rather than printed guidance.

Where can I get a copy of Planning for the Aggregate and Quarrying Industry Guidance Note?

Planning for the Aggregate and Quarrying Industry can be read online on the Quality Planning website at www.qp.org.nz/plan-topics/aggregate-quarry-industry.php under the Plan Topics section.

Please note that the electronic design of Quality Planning Guidance Notes means that they cannot be downloaded and read from front to back like a normal document. Additional sub layers of guidance are accessed through the highlighted links in the document.

Where can I get help on the Guidance Note?

If you have any questions on Planning for the Aggregate and Quarrying Industry or any other Quality Planning Guidance Notes, please contact the Quality Planning team at the Ministry for the Environment:

Quality Planning Website
Ministry for the Environment
PO Box 10 362
Wellington

Phone: (04) 439 7400

Email: admin@qp.org.nz

If you have any specific questions you would like to address to the AQA Planning Committee on the Guidance Note, please contact Roger Parton, Executive Director on roger@aqa.org.nz.

Does the guidance cover all types of quarry operations?

The focus of this guidance note is on the planning and management of medium and large-scale quarrying of aggregate from the ground, including river beds and beaches. It does not address small-scale quarrying, dredging, and extraction from the coastal marine area below the mean low level springs. However, many of the resource management issues and associated management methods for quarrying are generally relevant to smaller-scale quarrying activities.

Are there guidance notes for other industries?

Yes, Planning for the Wine Industry was published in 2007 and is available on the Quality Planning website at www.qualityplanning.org.nz under Plan Topics on the menu bar. Other guidance on the plan making and resource consent processes is also available on the website.