

AQA SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT AUCKLAND PLAN
STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF GRAEME MATHIESON

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 My name is Graeme John Mathieson. I am an Environmental Planning Consultant in the Auckland Office of Environmental Management Services Ltd (EMS). I have a Bachelor of Arts (Geography Major) degree and a Masters of Regional and Resource Planning degree from the University of Otago, and more than 18 years of resource management experience.
- 1.2 I reviewed the Draft Auckland Plan on behalf of the Aggregate and Quarry Association of New Zealand Inc. (“AQA”) and prepared and lodged a submission.

2.0 Submission

- 2.1 I have summarised the key points of the AQA submission in the following sections.
- 2.2 The Draft Auckland Plan includes a number of provisions that refer to the need to safeguard “rural production activities” including quarrying activities through requiring adequate separation with “lifestyle living”. The AQA supports this approach and also that the Draft Auckland Plan is focusing on protecting productive rural land by clearly identifying future areas for rural residential development. The AQA submission builds on these existing provisions by seeking amendments in other appropriate sections of the Draft Auckland Plan to ensure that aggregate extraction is adequately “protected” from reverse sensitivity effects arising from sensitive development (e.g. lifestyle blocks, residential). In addition, the AQA submission seeks other amendments to ensure that key roads required for aggregate transportation are also identified and protected from reverse sensitivity effects (e.g. in relation to traffic noise, vibration).
- 2.3 The AQA submission suggests that the Draft Auckland Plan should include a more detailed discussion of “reverse sensitivity”. This is a key resource management issue that requires careful management in planning documents in terms of the location of incompatible activities.

- 2.4 In Chapter 13 (Monitoring and Evaluation), the AQA submission suggests that in addition to monitoring the number of employees and geographic units in the rural area who work in agriculture, horticulture and related industries, Council should also monitor the number of employees who work in the quarrying industry as another “Key Measure” for the relevant Target of Strategic Direction 7 (n.b. *“Increase the total value added by the rural sector to Auckland’s economy from \$403 million in 2007 to \$600 million by 2040 (2007 dollars)”*.)
- 2.5 In Section 7 (Coastal Management, Harbours and Islands) of *“The Auckland Plan Discussion Document”*, there was recognition that sand extraction is one of the many activities that needs to be managed in coastal areas. There appears to be no such recognition in the Draft Auckland Plan with a primary focus on coastal enhancement. AQA seeks a more balanced approach in the Draft Auckland Plan with recognition of the possibility of extraction of aggregate from the coastal environment (and other waterways) subject to avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects.
- 2.6 Finally the AQA submission suggests that the Draft Auckland Plan include reference to evaluating and developing a map of key mineral resources (and their access routes) in the Region (consistent with Chapter 13 (Minerals) of the Operative Auckland Regional Policy Statement). This approach would assist with protecting such resources (e.g. through District Plan provisions) from being either developed over, or through reverse sensitivity effects arising from the establishment of nearby incompatible activities (e.g. lifestyle blocks, residential).
- 2.7 The specific changes sought in the AQA submission are attached as Appendix 1.

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7th December 2011

APPENDIX 1

Specific Relief Sought

General

Inclusion of an initiative that Auckland Council will undertake research and work with the minerals industry in developing a map showing key mineral resources and their access routes within the Region.

Chapter 5 (Auckland's Environment)

- (i) Include adequate recognition and provision for the possible extraction of sand, shingle, shell and other natural materials from the coastal environment subject to avoiding or mitigating any significant adverse environmental effects.
- (ii) Include adequate recognition and provision for the possible extraction of sand, gravel and other natural materials from other waterways (e.g. rivers) subject to avoiding or mitigating any significant adverse environmental effects.

Chapter 7 (Rural Auckland)

- (i) Include a section which discusses the issue of "reverse sensitivity".
- (ii) Amend the 8th bullet point in paragraph 469 (page 103) as follows:

*"Adequate separation between intensive producing businesses, such as quarrying and sand extraction, from new **incompatible** activities such as lifestyle living **to avoid reverse sensitivity effects**."*

- (iii) Amend Directive 7.2 (page 104) as follows:

*Develop a flexible regulatory framework that accommodates ~~and encourages~~ **and protects** productive rural uses, activities and associated enterprises.*

- (iv) Add the following "Future Outcome" for the Mixed Rural Area, Rural Production Area and Rural Coastal Area in Schedule 1 (Rural Activity Categories) on pages 107-108:

Protection of aggregate extraction sites and access routes to these sites from reverse sensitivity effects arising from incompatible activities (e.g. urban and rural residential development).

Chapter 11 (Auckland's Transport)

- (i) Include strategic road based freight routes on Map 11.1 (Auckland's strategic transport network 2040) on page 162. One approach could involve recognising the importance of key local roads to locationally constrained activities such as mineral extraction. Examples of some such roads are shown in Map 1 of the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy.
- (ii) Include an acknowledgement of road based freight under the directions for 'Priority 2 – Integrate transport planning and investment with land use development'.

Chapter 12 (Implementation Framework)

Amend Action 5 (page 228) as follows:

Through the Unitary Plan develop a policy framework with a tailored response for the broad rural activity types outlined in Chapter 7. This framework will support:

- *a thriving rural economy, including **protection of** production activities such as aggregate extraction.*
- *working and scenic rural landscapes.*
- *Land and water management practices that restore the environment.*

For Action 5, include “The Quarrying Industry” as another “Key Stakeholder”.

Chapter 13 (Monitoring and Evaluation)

Amend the second “Measure” for the relevant “Target” for Strategic Direction 7 (“Keep rural Auckland productive, protected and environmentally sound.”) on page 242 as follows:

*“Number of employees and geographic units in the rural area who work in agriculture, horticulture, **quarrying** and related industries.”*

Glossary

Amend the definition for “rural production” as follows:

*“...means forms of primary production which rely on the productive capacity of the soil such as dairying, animal farming and keeping and includes horticulture, horse breeding, beekeeping as a part of pastoral farming activities; and also means activities associated with **the** processing ~~and the~~ excavation **and transportation** of rock, sand, and clay.”*