

AQA SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT AUCKLAND PLAN

Overview

- I am Mike Lord President of the Aggregate and Quarry Association of New Zealand Inc ("AQA") which lodged a submission of the Draft Auckland Plan.
- I have with me Graeme Mathieson the Planning Consultant who lodged the AQA submission, and representatives from Winstone Aggregates, Fulton Hogan and Holcim's (who also lodged submissions).
- AQA was formed in 1969 by companies involved in extracting and supplying aggregates in New Zealand (e.g. rock, sand, gravel, clay, limestone), in response to the need for an industry group that could represent aggregate suppliers on a range of issues, as well as liaise with regulators and end users of the materials (see www.aqa.org.nz for website). Membership of the AQA stands at over 80 companies, which between them produce 85% of the 50 million tonnes of aggregates and allied raw materials used in New Zealand annually.
- Aggregates (including, rock, sand, gravel, shell, clay and limestone), are a vital ingredient to the construction of new infrastructure and the maintenance of existing facilities. This includes roads, railways and cycle tracks, through to housing, apartments, schools, hospitals and sports fields, as well as drainage and sewerage projects.
- There is no known alternative, nor one forecast, for extracting virgin aggregate resources. Recycling is playing an increasing role but with the best endeavors, will only meet 15 – 20 % of the impending requirements, based on our latest international information.
- There are limited sources of high quality aggregate readily available in close proximity to Auckland City. The need to adequately plan and provide for the future extraction of aggregates in the Auckland Region will become increasingly important with the anticipated high population growth and urban expansion.
- Cost effective infrastructure development will be severely compromised if access to aggregate resources is not well managed and preserved for future utilization.
- Failure to adequately plan will inevitably result in additional quantities of high quality aggregates having to be "imported" into the Auckland Council region from neighbouring regions, over and above that which is already happening.
- It is well documented that the cost of transporting aggregates doubles with every 30km of haul. Increased costs of aggregates would have flow on effects on the cost of roads, building and concrete. Added to this will be a higher carbon foot print in

terms of fuel usage, as well as higher maintenance cost for roads, which in turn will require more aggregates to maintain or restore them.

Accordingly the AQA submits that:

- Aggregate resources must be recognized as a vital strategic requirement for the Auckland Council region and not “sterilized” through inadvertent planning oversights.
- In particular, urban development should not occur over identified important aggregate resources or result in “Reverse Sensitivity issues” (e.g. from residential and rural residential areas), which will inhibit future extraction. Urbanization and aggregate utilization are “uncomfortable neighbors”, even with the most stringent environmental and resource consent requirements.
- Consideration must be given to key access routes for heavy traffic, both in the vicinity of future mineral resources and on the main haul routes within the Auckland Council region, to avoid subsequent compromise by future sensitive developments.
- In summary, the plan must identify and provide for extraction of high quality mineral resources for future development and provide adequate protection for them in terms of access and transport, to and from their location over the plan’s existing and future time horizons.

Mike Lord
AQA President

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