

What being an AQA member brings

After hearing from members over the last couple of years, there's been a lot of changes at the AQA in recent months.

Those changes are focused on delivering things that are important to you as AQA members and supporters.

If the following summary of what we've delivered or are working on is missing something you think important - or you'd like more explanation - please contact us. We are your organisation, collectively owned by you and answerable to a Board you elect.

Our Board has met and brainstormed the AQA's first strategic plan in several years. We are looking five years ahead in each of four key core strategies:

- To provide **planning** advice for our members and lobby councils and Government to ensure they are planning for future aggregate resources and protecting future and current aggregate resources from sterilisation.
- To improve the **technical** knowledge of New Zealand aggregates for our members and users of our products and assist members to attain best practice in complying with operational, environmental and regulatory requirements.
- Through engagement with MinEx, develop an industry view on **health and safety** matters and advise and assist our members with improved health and safety practices.
- Through engagement with IOQ and MITO, improve our industry's competence through initiating, promoting and supporting industry **training**, and youth recruitment initiatives

Wayne Scott took on the Chief Executive's role in September 2018 and is now sharing offices/resources with MinEx and Straterra to the benefit of AQA members and enabling us to deliver on our strategy at modest costs.

Under Wayne's leadership, a new Planning Committee will provide you as a quarry owner with input into every Council plan affecting quarries.

AQA Technical Advisor Mike Chilton is our lead on issues such as proposed changes to the M/4 specification, which the AQA has taken up on your behalf, asking for more research to show if these changes are actually needed. Mike also answers calls from AQA members with particular issues.

With support from our Communications Advisor Brendon Burns, (a former MP), we've had meetings with two key Government Ministers with more planned. Flowing out from one of those meetings (with Shane Jones) we have high hopes for a successful AQA/GNS application to the Provincial Growth

Fund to complete a national survey on aggregate resources. That would mean every sub-region will have a picture of where aggregate supplies are available. It could transform planning.

Brendon now also provides you with the From the Quarry Face email newsletter in between the six editions of Aggregate News (inside your free copy of Q+M magazine.) He's available to you as an AQA member for some one-off advice on Government, community engagement or media issues.

Wayne is also continuing to improve our industry's health and safety in his joint role as MinEx CEO. 2019s regional workshops have seen good turnouts and Wayne also provides invaluable one-off H+S advice to AQA members.

Our new apprenticeship scheme is underway with 35 recruits on-board. Wayne is now challenging the potential for the Government's 'reforms' of vocational education to tip our work-based focus largely back into polytechnic classrooms.

Our Strategic Plan is available on the members only part of this website, feel free to go have a look.

Of course, the AQA also helps organize our annual QuarryNZ conference in July for you to attend as members on a discounted basis. We are also turning 50 this year as an organisation. As part of our celebration in October (invites coming) we have our Rock Our Future schools' competition. We need you to come on board and help any participating local school to see what goes on inside a quarry.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we rock into the future.