

## A challenging year

Welcome to the final edition of Aggregate News for 2021 – a year once again marked by Covid's impact on every individual Kiwi and organisation including our quarry sector, most especially those of us living in the upper North Island.

Recently we were asked by the Government to comment on vaccination issues.

The quarry sector supports and encourages vaccinations. We also support a robust risk assessment process for all H&S risks including those associated with Covid. We support proposed legislation to allow employers to mandate vaccination for workers, contractors, and visitors to their sites following a risk assessment.

**"We support proposed legislation to allow employers to mandate vaccination for workers, contractors, and visitors to their sites following a risk assessment."**

The AQA believes it would be appropriate for a site to mandate vaccinations if there is sufficient risk. We do not support a mandate differentiating between frontline work and other work areas as this would create tension and division within the workplace. If you have any questions, please contact our CEO Wayne Scott – [wayne@aqa.org.nz](mailto:wayne@aqa.org.nz), 021 944 336.

Meanwhile, it's great to see the AQA has helped bring about a new organisation – the NZ Limestone Producers Association. Wayne Scott has been working behind the scenes to support the creation of this new group which will sit within the framework of the AQA. Limestone producers have always been a key part of quarrying and of our organisation, but as initial chair Shaun Cleverley from Palmer Resources notes on page 47, much of their effort is explaining the benefits of the product, so it makes sense to pool resources.

We look forward to working ever more

closely through the new association and great to see the lime producers' first act is to commission Greer Manderson to bring together all the industry's science and research into one place. You get to meet Greer on page 46.

Another long-term associate of the AQA is Rex Davies, founder of MIMICO, sponsor of our annual environmental and community award. Rex has spent most of his working life building up his machinery business so when he voices opinions on the current challenges of getting supplies, it's important to take notice. Rex's message is that we all need to plan ahead, and not rely so much on the 'Just-in-Time' approach to securing parts.

As an Aucklander which has seen no

new quarries developed for seven years, I particularly welcome the just-released Physical Resources study from the NZ Infrastructure Commission. <https://www.tewaihang.govt.nz/assets/Infrastructure-Resources-Study-11-Nov-21.pdf> We are finding Te Waihang (to use its Maori name) a breath of fresh air within the



Jayden Ellis

ranks of Government agencies.

CEO Ross Copland pulled no punches at our July conference about the changes needed if the Government wants the desperately needed tens of billions of infrastructure dollars actually spent. The new study identifies the roadblocks, and Wayne Scott details what needs to happen to remove them on page 48.

We as an industry do have a way to go too. Waka Kotahi has found multiple overload quarry trucks crossing the Auckland Harbour Bridge. As AQA Technical Advisor Mike Chilton says in his as-ever useful update, we've been sent a warning.

It's been a most trying year and I trust we can all have a good, safe Christmas break with the ability to travel and see families and friends before confronting whatever 2022 holds for us.

**Jayden Ellis**  
**Chair, AQA**



**Make your voices heard**  
**Infrastructure Commission CEO Ross Copland told the QuarryNZ conference in July.**

Rex Davies (right) and MIMICO have been stalwart supporters of the AQA and the industry for many years. Here Rex was presenting a MIMICO Environment Award to Fulton Hogan's Jared Johnston at the 2017 conference.



## Supply chain stretched as demand continues

**Rex Davies has seen all the business cycles in more than 30 years heading MIMICO, but he's never seen anything like the supply challenges of 2021.**

The Matamata-based agency for brands including Metso and Kobelco Dynapac, Moxy, Superior & MDS is facing unprecedented demand amid previously unheard-of delays with supply. In mentioning the delays with capital plant, MIMICO is presently carrying stock and meeting current demands. The comments are more about warning customers to forward plan where possible.

His experiences are being matched by other providers including TerraCat.

Rex says supply difficulties are across the board. He ordered new units three months ago; delivery is not till early next year. One of MIMICO's suppliers he was talking to in mid-October couldn't even get the most basic of parts.

"They were struggling to get bolts to carry out the assembly of machines on the production line." And, machinery out of Europe is particularly hard hit.

Meantime, demand is very high. When MIMICO took on the Kobelco agency 11 years ago it was initially selling 70 excavators a year. It is now on target this year to sell 255 units.

"We should have delivered closer to 300, but we've been short of the mini (excavator) line. We have not been able to maximise the demand in this area of the market."

The MIMICO managing director says there's been a minimum price rise of five percent for machinery this year, some suppliers up to 10 percent. Suppliers absorb some costs but steep rises in

shipping have been a driving factor that's forced increases to be passed on.

He believes there is also some price-gouging by component suppliers. A set of 10 computer chips which used to cost \$20 has gone to \$2000 for one of MIMICO's suppliers. This is by no means across the board but it all adds up, though major cost increases have, to date, been avoided for most machinery.

Rex says New Zealanders have been very used to having a 'just in time' approach to parts but MIMICO is noting the supply chain is becoming stretched due to lack of production amid Covid restraints, with manufacturers around the world thus placing pressure on the supply chain.

The company carries large inventories and always has done as this was, and is, one of its key strategies with more than \$12.5 million in parts in stock to look after customers' needs.

"But we can't afford to carry everything."

Rex advises companies to plan ahead and keep a stock of commonly used parts including often-used consumables.

TerraCat's Tim O'Meara, who manages general construction industries for the NZ division of Caterpillar, also says customers should plan well ahead.

TerraCat is fortunate to have good inventory and stock as Caterpillar had also been switching suppliers and pre-buying to help ensure demand could be met as much as possible. **AQA**



Greer Manderson with her dad Bryce standing in a regenerative diverse pasture at Lake Hawea Station.

# Lime and regeneration

**You might say that lime is in Greer Manderson's bones.  
Her grandfather Jim started Northland's Avoca lime business just after World War Two  
and her dad Bryce still runs it.**

Greer (22) has done a couple of seasons with Avoca (and her younger brother Hamish works there) but her attention has turned to the science of lime.

Now completing Honours at Lincoln in a BSc (Biological and Environmental Sciences) at Canterbury University, Greer reckons lime has become neglected as a soil conditioner and nutrient. She's doing some of her honours study on the contribution that lime makes to addressing soil acidity, how it impacts legumes (with specific reference to white clover and lucerne), and what role liming has to play in the context of our national soils.

Greer says she wanted to look at the effects and benefits of liming especially as its use appears to be declining in New Zealand.

As she finishes her final term at university, Greer is now looking to make a career as a soil ecologist.

Her interest may have started due to being part of a lime quarrying family but it all clicked early last year after Bryce flew down to take her to a presentation by Dr Christine Jones.

This internationally renowned and highly respected groundcover and soils ecologist has spent much of her life working with innovative landholders to implement regenerative land management practices that enhance soil health and subsequent

ecosystem functioning; e.g. biodiversity, productivity, and water quality.

The fact that lime is a natural product and can contribute to regenerative practices lit the fuse for Greer.

"My big interest is supporting regenerative agriculture," she says in a Zoom interview from Lincoln.

She explains how the main purpose of lime applied in New Zealand is to reduce soil acidity, but in the process adds calcium to the soil; a critical plant nutrient.

"I've been brought up knowing the importance of it. Now I'm passionate about getting messages across regarding the benefits of this natural compound.

"Everything starts in the soil. I think we humans believe we are bigger than it, but we are linked to it."

Greer is starting work next year with Canterbury-based regenerative agriculture advocate and consultant, Jono Frew. You can bet the benefits of lime will pop up from time to time. It's in Greer's bones.

• Bryce Manderson has been working with the Aggregate and Quarry Association to launch the NZ Limestone Producers Association to help promote the use of limestone and provide information about its benefits. **AQA**



# Time for some limelight

A century ago, lime millers dotted around the country had their own regional associations; now the industry has come together nationally under the umbrella of the Aggregate and Quarry Association.



Shaun Cleverley

Shaun Cleverley, who's GM for Palmer Resources, which operates three limestone sites in Canterbury, has become the inaugural Chair of the NZ Limestone Producers Association after a Zoom meeting of industry representatives in early October.

He says he, and others, have been working on the idea for a couple of years, supported by AQA CEO Wayne Scott.

"The driving force is that 70-80 percent of our ad spend is on the promotion of the use of Aglime, rather than promoting our particular product over a competitor's. The opportunity for the industry is for a body to manage and produce a lot of the content and science, that many in the industry have been doing alone, often simultaneously."

Shaun says it makes sense to pool resources for the industry to work together.

Limestone quarries produce towards 10 percent of all quarried materials in New Zealand and production and sales have been reasonably consistent in recent years. That said, farming has become more intensified which requires more inputs including Aglime.

"What we are certainly not seeing is an increase matching that intensification."

Shaun says whatever fertiliser that is applied for grass growth, there's also a need for lime. "Every farm will have an element of pH correction required."

Part of the new organisation's pitch is that lime is a natural, unaltered product, sourced from the earth.

"We are not necessarily competing with other products but if soil

has the correct pH, this reduces the volumes needed of fertilisers."

There is a lot of scientific research that shows the contribution and importance of lime to the nation's farming, but it sits in a lot of different spaces.

Among the first actions of the NZ Limestone Producers Association was to create a dedicated place for resources, which will be published early next year. It has also taken on graduate Greer Manderson to help bring together all of the publications into one place. The organisation will be based at the AQA/Straterra office in Wellington and largely make use of existing staff.

Shaun says those bringing together the new body investigated a number of ways to bring it about but the fit with the AQA made great sense.

"I'm really happy to have landed with the AQA. I've been a member for some years and see good value."

He says he's aware of limestone industry people now joining the AQA.

The initial committee of the NZ Limestone Producers Association are:

- Shaun Cleverley, Palmer Resources, Chair
- Craig Hendry, Ravensdown
- Keith Squires, Avoca Lime
- Matt Webster, Webster Hydrated Lime
- Steve Smith, AB Lime **AQA**

The Aggregate & Quarry Association appreciates the support of our members

**aqa**



# Mandatory production reporting among supported changes

**The AQA is backing recommendations from a NZ Infrastructure Commission – Te Waihangā study to remove policy impediments to infrastructure delivery, including mandatory production reporting by quarries.**

CEO Wayne Scott says Te Waihangā's Infrastructure Resources Study identifies all the policy roadblocks stymieing development and hopes all its recommendations can be implemented at speed.

That includes mandatory annual reporting by all aggregate quarries rather than the current voluntary reporting.

"At present with some unreported production, we estimate New Zealanders use around 50M tonnes a year. If all production was known, it'd help councils and government agencies involved in infrastructure as well as the industry."

The Te Waihangā study says policy roadblocks have seen no new quarries developed in Auckland in seven years despite huge population growth demanding aggregate for infrastructure and housing. It

suggests building costs there may be up to one percent higher than needed, let alone the congestion and carbon emissions unnecessarily created, because Auckland imports a third of its aggregate.

Wayne Scott says the study also identifies Wellington and other regions being impacted by the lack of new quarries and the challenges faced in getting resource consent renewals and extensions for existing quarries.

"Te Waihangā rightly observes Transmission Gully has caused scarcity of supply in Wellington because there was no planning for aggregate supply and no new quarries were developed to feed this mega-project, while ensuring local demand was met."

The study says some government policies are making it harder for industry to increase aggregate production. One example is the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management. The AQA led the charge saying this policy threatened aggregate supply by putting the brakes on a number of potential quarry extensions and

developments where areas of wet pasture, now classified as natural wetlands, exist.

Wayne Scott says the AQA is now working with MfE on a solution and welcomes Te Waihangā's recommendation that they jointly develop a best practice quarry consent application template.

"This is a critical interim step to ensure timely approval of resource consents for quarry extensions or renewals essential to the supply of aggregates into infrastructure, climate change mitigation, affordable housing and natural disaster repairs.

"If we want roading and building projects around the country to continue, the roadblocks to supply have to be quickly removed or we will see prices go sky high."

The study says Statistics New Zealand estimates that input costs

for infrastructure projects for materials including aggregate and concrete can be about 30 percent of the total and as high as 70 percent.

For the AQA, one of the most important recommendations of the Te Waihangā study was that local authorities should do resource scans as part of their long-term planning process.

"As the study identifies, the AQA did some work with GNS Science and the Opotiki Council which helped provide alternative, less costly supplies of rock and aggregate to make the district's new harbour development viable.

"If councils around the country began identifying their hard-rock resources – and roped them off to support future growth – a lot of the tensions with residential development encroachment could be avoided."

Wayne Scott says the alternative is increasingly short supplies of aggregate, rapidly rising prices, and increased carbon emissions impacting on every New Zealander. **AQA**

**"If we want roading and building projects around the country to continue, the roadblocks to supply have to be quickly removed or we will see prices go sky high."**

## AQA works for the quarry industry – join us today

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### Technical Issues for AQA members

#### NZPAM fines for permit holders

- MBIE had signalled NZPAM will fine those permit holders who are late to file annual summary reports, pay royalties or pay annual fees.
- Fines are up to \$3000 per organisation or \$1000 per individual.
- Although these are low-level offences, please ensure your timely duties and payments are made to NZPAM.

#### Overweight vehicles



- The AQA has been advised by Waka Kotahi about a concerning number of over-weight trucks carrying quarry material across the Auckland Harbour Bridge.
- Chris Rodley, Waka Kotahi's Safer Commercial Transport, Portfolio Manager Upper North Island says Weigh-in-Motion technology detected four seven-axle trucks with excess weights crossing the bridge within a half hour period on one day in late September.
- "Additionally, two of the four trucks were travelling in excess of the posted speed limit. We are following up with the aggregate transport company directly," says Chris.
- He asked AQA to get a message around overloading of vehicles out to members and the quarry industry nationally and remind businesses that Auckland Harbour Bridge is not an HPMV route.
- "The Land Transport Act has provisions for parties outside of the transport company (persons up and down the supply chain) who directly or indirectly cause a breach of vehicle maximum gross weight limits. These provisions are in place for the safety of other road users but equally the integrity of our roading infrastructure."
- AQA Technical Adviser Mike Chilton also notes that quarry workers are usually aware of the implications of overloading heavy vehicles but there are also rules about loading light vehicles with trailers.
- Although the vehicle and trailer manufacturers' maximum weights can't be enforced in NZ, there are some rules for cars towing trailers that need to be met:
  - Vehicles need to be able to stop within seven metres when travelling at 30km/h.
  - The trailer load doesn't cause distortion to the tow bar or towing vehicle.
  - If the gross laden weight of the trailer is over 2 tonnes, it needs to have brakes. **AQA**

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