



J Swap Contractors are major sponsors of the AQA's 50th anniversary.

## Saluting our AQA stalwarts, past and present

As the new chair of the AQA and yet to contribute to the history of our organisation, I am in awe of all that has been achieved.

Fifty years ago a group of determined men – yes they were all blokes in those days – got together and forged an association to represent the interests of our industry.

I salute them one and all; their vision set the scene for much progress and achievement for the quarrying sector – and for New Zealand.

I trust you will enjoy this special edition of *Quarrying and Mining* as we celebrate that half century of the AQA.

And I do hope some of you will be able to join our 50th anniversary party at Christchurch's Hagley Oval building on Saturday October 5.

With the delightful Jim O'Brien as our keynote speaker giving his perspective from the Global Aggregates Information Network he largely founded, it promises to be a memorable evening.

I also am astounded at how much work our small organisation manages.

That came home to me reading the story for this edition of *Aggregate News* on our submissions on multiple fronts (see story pages 58-59).

Our CEO Wayne Scott is leading our sector's input on no fewer than half a dozen major Government documents from the resource strategy to indigenous biodiversity to valuable soils. This means reading hundreds of pages of material so he can submit on our behalf.

Wayne is having to do an office equivalent of what you do; remove a lot of overburden to get to the resources that are really useful.

I was further reminded of our demanding workstream reviewing the story (see page 60) about Kevin Bligh and our newly reinstituted AQA Planning Committee. Full marks to the effort that is going in to put in an AQA submission on many of our district and regional plans; what is needed are reinforcing submissions from local quarries.

It is great to see we are winning some allies in the local government arena as the story on page 58 illustrates.

The chief executive of the Opotiki District Council, Aileen Lawrie, was thrilled to have AQA technical adviser Mike Chilton (his Technical report on page 61) and GNS scientists working with her Council. The benefits of knowing where aggregate resources are located will stretch much wider and longer than the river mouth work which sparked the project.

I believe the AQA is also punching above its weight.

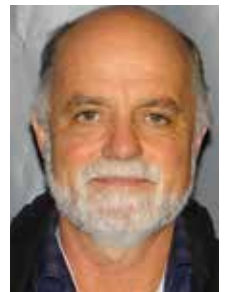
Wayne is working his way through that mountain of documents so you can focus on doing what you do best – producing the foundations of all our nation's infrastructure and growth.

But don't forget to engage and keep engaging with your council, neighbours and communities; it may not always be easy, but it will pay dividends longer-term.

If you are not already doing so then now, as the weather gets warmer, might be a good time to start.

**Peter Walsh**

**Chair, Aggregate and Quarry Association**



**Peter Walsh.**

# Opotiki paves the way

**A new model of cooperation between the quarry sector, local and central Government is already paying results in the eastern Bay of Plenty.**

When costs for two proposed new rock walls at Opotiki 's estuary – a critical part of the Opotiki Harbour Development Project needed for the burgeoning greenshell mussel industry off the town's coast – reached a reported \$145m last year, Infrastructure and Regional Development Minister Shane Jones called for a review.

Minister Jones raised the issue in a meeting with new AQA CEO Wayne Scott last October, indicating one of the key cost drivers for the Opotiki project was that armour rock was not being sourced close enough to keep costs down. Wayne spoke to Rosie Mercer, deputy chair of the Provincial Growth Fund and she put him in touch with Opotiki District Council chief executive Aileen Lawrie.

AQA Technical Adviser Mike Chilton and GNS Science geologists Matthew Hill and Mark Rattenbury went to Opotiki to look for alternate sources of rock. Aileen asked the Project Manager for the Opotiki estuary walls project John Galbraith to join the group.

"It was just so exciting to bounce the ideas around the room and come up with good results," says Aileen Lawrie.

GNS Science was able to draw on some of its early work towards a national study of aggregate resources and integrate this information with geological mapping and rock property data. Mike Chilton contributed some of his practical knowledge as an adviser to the AQA and the quarrying industry. John Galbraith provided local knowledge and input about the requirements for the estuary walls.

The report from the group identified where more localised sources of armour rock that met the specifications might be

found. This gave ODC confidence to proceed to a Registration of Interest for local suppliers and a tender process. For the ROI Opotiki District Council compiled combined demand over next 10 years from itself, Whakatane District Council, NZTA and Bay of Plenty Regional Council's flood scheme, with the intention of prompting more supply.

The outcomes from this will feature in a new Business Case for the estuary walls project which goes back to the Provincial Growth Fund in October.

Aileen Lawrie says as well as contributing to considerable cost reductions, there are major other benefits from the AQA/GNS Science work for Opotiki and the wider Bay of Plenty.

"Knowing where our local sources of rock lie and having the aggregate sector develop new resources will help us reduce roading costs and manage our rivers as well as plan for our district's future infrastructure needs."

She says there is a forecast \$5b spend on infrastructure across Bay of Plenty in the next decade and little planning to date on where the aggregate and rock for that rollout will come from.

Opotiki District Council has provided a letter of support for a PGF proposal from AQA and GNS to do a wider whole study on the region's aggregate resources, en route to completing the national study.

"What happened here was a fantastic approach," says Aileen Lawrie. "We are a small council serving 9,000 people in an area with the highest level of deprivation in New Zealand. We couldn't have done this by ourselves and I think we've created a model that other areas would benefit from as well." **AQA**



**Aileen Lawrie.**





# Getting quarrying into Government documents



Wayne Scott

If you think you've got your hands full at the moment, spare a thought for AQA chief executive, Wayne Scott. Currently, he's having to deal with and respond to no fewer than five major reviews of Government strategies and policy statements, all of which straddle the interests of the quarrying sector.

At the centre is the draft Minerals and Petroleum Resource Strategy released in late August. It is centred around the Government's wish to support the transition to a low emissions future and balancing that with building a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy.

Wayne had some early input prior to the public release and you can see his fingerprints; there are a number of early references to the quarrying sector including this early reference: *7.6 TONNES The amount of aggregate (crushed stone and sand) on average that each New Zealander consumes per annum. We consume aggregates through the infrastructure and buildings that we use.*

*And Houses, roads, bridges and buildings would not exist without aggregates. The crushed rock is expensive to transport (the cost of aggregate doubles in the first 30km of transport)*

*which is why it is important that quarries are located near.*

These are key industry facts inserted into a strategy that will help shape how quarries are treated in the future; it will also inform the new Crown Minerals Act.

Wayne has now reviewed the 42 page document and will have made this a submission for the AQA by the September 20 deadline.

In the week prior to the release of the Resource Strategy, the Government's proposed new National Policy Statement for Urban Development was released. *Planning for successful cities*, replaces a 2016 NPS. The new 80 page document, when confirmed, will provide direction to local authorities about how cities should plan for growth, removing unnecessary restrictions on development to allow for growth 'up' and 'out' in locations that have good access to existing services and

infrastructure. Obviously, some major ramifications here for our sector.

An AQA submission will be made before the deadline on 10 October. An independent technical advisory panel then reviews these in the context of the NPS. It's proposed this would likely come into force in the first half of next year.

Also, this month (October) the new proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity will be released for public consultation. The AQA has already expressed concern to officials on the ramifications and unintended consequences this NPS could bring.

As drafted this NPS could make it very difficult to undertake activities such as quarry developments, and consenting may also be much more difficult particularly in areas with any wetlands that are defined as areas subject to 'water'!

## Join our united voice!

The Aggregate and Quarry Association achieves workable and sensible outcomes for our industry.

Contact us today: [office@aqa.org.nz](mailto:office@aqa.org.nz) [www.aqa.org.nz](http://www.aqa.org.nz)

### Benefits for members include:

- A voice on numerous national committees, including MITO and MinEx
- Access to information and guidance from our expert Technical committee members plus our Board members
- AQA members also receive issues of **Contractor** and **Q&M** free of charge.

AGGREGATE & QUARRY ASSOCIATION OF NZ

Supporting New Zealand from the ground up



**“... the NPS is over the top and needs to get some balance, particularly into determining what is a significant impact.”**

In AQA's view, the NPS is over the top and needs to get some balance, particularly into determining what is a significant impact.

And if you thought the emerging NPS on highly productive soils is just about protecting Pukekohe spuds, think again.

Some quarries are on highly productive soils in areas like Canterbury; these also need to be protected to ensure the aggregate and sand in these soils can be used for their maximum contribution.

We were successful in getting mining and quarrying included in the National Planning Standards definition of primary production earlier this year, and are hopeful this NPS will help protect significant aggregate resources from sterilisation. AQA will also be submitting on this NPS by the 10 October deadline.

Meantime, the Government's long-awaited discussion paper on its **No New Mines on Conservation Land** policy is yet to emerge. Wayne's had discussions with officials on that too, notably on the importance of quarries being able to continue to operate on land which is not core to the Conservation estate.

Wayne says that while all the documents represent a welter of work, they also represent an opportunity for the quarry sector to engage and put forward its case for a balance of environmental protection and economic outcomes.

All these documents will also feed into the Government's announced comprehensive review of the Resource Management Act – but, mercifully, the working group for that doesn't report until May next year. **AQA**



### **2x Average**

People working in the minerals and petroleum sector make almost twice the average wage (\$49,475 in 2017).



### **\$96,000**

Average wage of a person working in the minerals sector, excluding quarrying.



### **\$143,000**

Average wage of a person working in the oil and gas sector.



### **7.6 TONNES**

The amount of aggregate (crushed stone and sand) on average that each New Zealander consumes per annum. We consume aggregates through the infrastructure and buildings that we use.

### **10%**

Percentage of New Zealand land where there are rare earth elements, nickel-cobalt, and lithium potential.



### **Clean-Tech Minerals**

Minerals such as Cobalt, Nickel, and Lithium are key to producing clean technologies such as batteries and wind turbines.



# No future without planning

Kevin Bligh's CV reads like a recent history of major quarrying applications in New Zealand. As a qualified environmental planner, he's worked on a dozen quarry-related consents in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch for Winstone's, Road Metals and Fulton Hogan.



Kevin Bligh (Golders).

**Now 36,** Kevin joined Golder Associates seven years ago, before taking on the role of general manager of its Auckland office in 2017 after earlier working for Winstone Aggregates and at the Rodney District Council.

Recently, Kevin joined the reformed AQA Planning Committee and says its return is timely as the need for quarries to have input into the regulatory framework remains as important as ever. The Planning Committee is doing all it can to assist on this important topic.

The other committee members are Don Chittock (Fulton Hogan), Jeremy Harding (Straterra), Dudley Clemens (J Swap), Tyler Sharratt (Winstone) and AQA CEO Wayne Scott.

The AQA is submitting on as many council planning documents around the country as it can, including District Plans and Regional Policy Statements.

The key role of the Planning Committee is to facilitate a planning framework that provides for quarries to operate consistently across the country and create a balanced playing field for quarrying alongside other resources and values;

some areas only have an AQA submission, which obviously has its limitations without input from local quarries.

Kevin says while the major quarrying companies typically keep a close eye on plans affecting regions they are involved in, there is not always the same focus in some of the smaller centres.

"If you are starting a new quarry or seeking an expansion without a balanced planning framework, it's going to be very, very hard."

Even with a council plan that has had quarry industry input, the challenges are increasing, he adds.

"The days of putting in an application and simply going to a hearing are gone. Councils and courts are very receptive to people and the effects on their amenity value and engagement with communities is becoming more and more vital to being successful in obtaining permits to quarry."

These problems are by no means unique to New Zealand however, as urban populations expand into areas that were once rural or on the fringe, communities and councils have been requiring more and more of quarries particularly on

amenity protection and environmental performance.

With that in mind, Kevin recently went to Victoria, Australia to see the planning challenges facing quarries there and opportunities for environmental advancements which could be applied in our country.

This provided some interesting ideas, but also highlighted that many of our quarries are already doing a lot of things well with Kevin noting that New Zealand quarries have made enormous advances in environmental performance on site.

Perhaps to illustrate the moving goalposts, trucks are now probably the biggest issue because of their noise and impacts on roads and the associated impact on amenity values.

Kevin and his team at Golder Associates have quarry clients as a major part of their business and he was keen for the company to be a sponsor of the AQA 50th anniversary.

"There are a lot of good people in the industry and we tend to build long-term relationships which deserve to be supported."

It's all about planning for your future. **AQA**

## Technical Issues for AQA members

### AQA Technical Committee

- The recycling guide produced by AQA in 2010 is due for an update. AQA is sending out a short survey on recycling at your site. Please take a few minutes to complete it as the responses will help steer the refreshing of the Guidelines.
- The Government has released its draft *Minerals and Petroleum Resource Strategy*, which was open for submissions until 20 September. Recycling and reuse are a part of this and will be a strong focus for the Government as it targets socially responsible extraction and a carbon neutral economy.
- The members-only section of the new AQA website is being populated with some useful technical references. Keep an eye out for updates as we publish them.



### NZTA

- The new M/4 specification is on track for release in mid-2020. Training notes have been completed. NZTA and AQA will advertise where and when regional workshops will be held.
- The official test method for the Ethylene Glycol Accelerated Weathering Test has been published on the NZTA website. Search for [NZTA T20](#).
- NZTA is still improving its RAMM database information on suppliers. If you are not registered as a supplier to NZTA, you may want to contact [Anneliese.White@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:Anneliese.White@nzta.govt.nz)
- The Rehab Guide is getting refreshed in the next couple of months too.

### CCNZ

- CCNZ has released its Best Practice Guide 05 – Quality Assurance for Aggregates. It is free for CCNZ members and available to non-members for a small fee.
- The Asphalt Plant Accreditation Scheme (APAS) is undergoing a revitalisation. The AQA will be involved on behalf of members who are asphalt aggregate suppliers.
- There is a one-day surfacing workshop, “Preventing Tarmageddon” in Auckland on 26 September. Tickets are available from CCNZ for \$145 and the 12-14 presenters will cover a wide range of subjects.

### MITO

- The Government’s reform of vocational education is front of mind for MITO.
- Commencing on 1 April 2020, four to seven Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) will be formed. The standard-setting role will move from ITOs to the WDCs over the period of 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2021.
- ITO apprentices and learners will transition to the NZIST by 31 December 2022. Transition arrangements are likely to be phased. It is yet unknown when MITO’s transition will occur.
- MITO has set up a helpful page on its website [www.mito.org.nz/news/reform-of-vocational-education/](http://www.mito.org.nz/news/reform-of-vocational-education/) [AQA](#)

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