



## From the Quarry Face February

Welcome to the first From the Quarry Face for 2020. With Waitangi Day behind us, it feels like the year is now truly underway in earnest.

I had a holiday across the ditch over Christmas and while the bush fires naturally got most attention – including some help from Aussie quarries – there's a lot happening in the health and safety space in Australia.

Have a look at the article in this FTQF about the review of mining and quarry fatalities in Queensland. It's disturbing a pattern was seen where a significant number of fatalities occur, followed by periods where there are few or none, suggesting periods of increasing and decreasing industry vigilance. We can all recall the bleak year we had in quarrying in 2015 when four workers died in separate accidents. The fact we are five years on should give us all cause to be on our guard.

And we also report on New South Wales quarries which are seeing a crackdown on dust management after a review showed some quarry workers were being exposed levels above legal limits. Dust remains our biggest risk to health and safety in quarries and the enforcement action we are seeing in

You'll see some comment from me regarding the emerging new regs inside this newsletter. There's also a couple of plugs and a plaudit.

We've just launched our second Rock our Future competition for primary school students. This year we are asking them to design the rehabilitation of a quarry at the end of its economic life so it can become a community asset. This competition only works if quarries support local schools. Read the story and get in behind [Rock our Future](#).

We start our MinEx workshops next week, kicking off in Blenheim on Wednesday 26 Feb and Nelson the day following. These one-day workshops costing just \$150 run across the country until October. Have a look [here](#) at dates and locations.

And as we launch our MIMICO Environment and Community award for 2020, our congratulations go to judge Dr Morgan Williams whose work was recognised in the New Year's Honours list.

I'd like to think there's more people in our sector who deserve getting a gong – but perhaps we are mostly happy being the quiet achievers who deliver the foundations of New

Australia will almost certainly be followed here. If any incentive is needed this should provide it.

On our own regulatory front, the new regulations for NZ quarries inch forward. Recently released Cabinet papers show the Government will proceed with some sensible changes such as changing the threshold for B-grade managers.

Zealand's built growth every day.

Here's to an earnest year of work now well underway.



**Wayne**  
**CEO AQA & MinEx**

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## Message for NZ from Queensland review

A 300+ page [report](#) into Queensland's 47 deaths in mining and quarrying over the last 20 years provides us with some stark analysis.

The report by structural engineer Dr Sean Brady released just before Christmas pulls no punches. It opens with Executive Summary recommendations that nail the issues.

**Recommendation 1:** *The industry should recognise that it has a fatality cycle. Unless it makes significant changes to how it operates, the rate of fatalities is likely to continue at current levels. This pattern... is characterised by periods where a significant number of fatalities occur, followed by periods where there are few to none. This suggests that the industry goes through periods of increasing and decreasing vigilance.*

As noted, we had a shocker of a year in quarrying in 2015. That paled alongside the Pike River disaster five years earlier. Are we now in a period of increasing vigilance here in New Zealand – or the alternative?

**Recommendation 2:** *The industry should recognise that the causes of fatalities are typically a combination of banal, everyday, straightforward factors, such as a failure of controls, a lack of training, and/or absent or inadequate supervision. Internal incident*

Dr Brady went on to explain that sometimes human error contributed but it does not alone cause a fatality.

**Recommendation 3:** *The industry needs to focus on ensuring workers are appropriately trained for the specific tasks they are undertaking. A total of 17 of the 47 fatalities involved a lack of task specific training and/or competencies for the tasks being undertaken. A further 9 had inadequate training. These tasks were often undertaken at the direction of supervisors or others who were aware of these deficiencies. In many cases this lack of training resulted in the worker being unaware of the hazards involved in completing the task or the worker operating equipment in a manner that exposed them to hazards.*

So more than half of Queensland's fatalities involved a lack of specific task training or competences or inadequate training.

**Recommendation 4:** *The industry needs to focus on ensuring workers are appropriately supervised for the tasks they are undertaking. In 32 of the 47 fatalities, the worker was required to be supervised when undertaking the task...25 of these 32 fatalities involved inadequate or absent supervision.*

I see many parallels between what the Brady report has detailed in Queensland and what

*investigations ...must avoid simplifying them to a single cause, such as human error, bad luck or freak accidents, which has the potential to mask the underlying system failures.*

we experience here in New Zealand. I'm still digesting the content, but it will contribute to some of the messages I want to get across to our extractives sector this year.

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## Meanwhile, a dust storm in NSW

A crackdown by New South Wales authorities in the last quarter of 2019 has seen more than 60 improvement notices issued and some restrictions on operations.

This follows spot visits to 24 quarries with the regulator observing there was an over-reliance on PPE as way to combat respirable dust. It had earlier reviewed some dust monitoring results which suggested some quarry workers were being exposed to dust at levels above legal limits.

Some better operators were acknowledged to be using techniques such as in-cab filtration, water sprays,

screens and hoods to reduce dust.

Any quarry visit in NSW this year into next will include as part of the inspection a look at how respirable dust is being managed.

As earlier signalled, where Australia goes in these issues, New Zealand tends to follow. WorkSafe have recently halved the current 0.1mg/cm limit for respirable silica dust to 0.05mg/cm following SafeWork Australia's similar recommendation.

Personally, I'd rather see more focus on the controls necessary to meet the current limit consistently.

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## MIMICO Award Application now open



**Applications are now open** – simply requiring an outline of a good environmental or community engagement project and an owner/manager's support. Any early inquiries to our Comms Adviser – [brendon.burns1@gmail.com](mailto:brendon.burns1@gmail.com)

The MIMICO Award winner will be announced at the [QuarryNZ](#) conference being held in Wellington from 15-17 July. FYI – and to support early proximate hotel bookings - the venue is Sky Stadium, a.k.a The Cake Tin.

## MIMICO Award judge gets honour

Dr Morgan Williams, who has served since 2012 as judge for the MIMICO environmental (and now community) award got his own award in the New Year's honours lists. Morgan is now to be a Companion of the Queen's Service Order for services to the state and the environment. We at AQA commend Morgan on his award.

For more than 20 years, Morgan worked for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, leading major ecological research on pests before serving as the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment for 10 years from 1997. Morgan was also chairman of the World Wide Fund for Nature in New Zealand for eight years until last May and a former member of its international council. He has a long interest in climate change and water resources.

Morgan has been sole judge of the MIMICO Environment and Community Award since 2012. He has visited and assessed many dozens of applications in that time, and we are pleased that Morgan will do so again this year.



*MIMICO Managing Director Rex Davies with Dr Morgan Williams at QuarryNZ 2018.*

## And our new quarrying regulations are emerging

Cabinet papers recently made public by MBIE with comments by Workplace Relations and Safety Minister Iain Lees-Galloway, indicate the final likely shape of the new mining and quarrying regulations.

These are at last due to be in place by August this year – the Minister had suggested by Christmas 2018; then MBIE reviewed them and identified the need for further regulatory hazard management in quarries and alluvial mines. It also observed that the rushed post Pike River regulations in 2013 had presented disproportionate application of the regulations on lower risk operations, notably surface operations. Quarries and alluvial mines were excluded and managed under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 while new fit for purpose regs were brought together.

MBIE's review confirms most of the country's estimated 1,200 quarries are lower risk than underground mining operations.

Minister Lees-Galloway acknowledges quarry operator and AQA concerns that much of the current requirements for principal hazard management plans and principle control plans would be complex and onerous and says WorkSafe will work closely with industry to provide guidance and reassurance. Quarries and alluvials requiring an A Grade Manager will be required to risk assess principle hazards at their site and prepare relevant principle hazard management plans if the risks exist. Sites requiring a B Grade Manager will be required to have a documented Health and Safety Management system.

There's to be a new threshold test for B-grade managers, moving from the use of explosives to differentiate between higher and lower risk operations, to one based on staff numbers. B-grade managers will only be able to manage quarries where up to four workers (other than the manager) ordinarily work, which is in line with AQA and industry submissions.

“I am advised this is a natural cut-off point for single extraction/crushing units,” said Lees-Galloway. Quarries will not be required to have a Site Senior Executive but will have to meet additional administrative requirements, such as reports to WorkSafe and notification of commencement and suspension.

The Minister advised Cabinet there will be a suitable transitional period for quarries and alluvial mines to meet new risk management processes, for managers to meet new competencies and for WorkSafe to refresh its quarry guidance, and work with the BoE on competencies (expected to be 2 or 3 years)..

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## Rock our Future 2020

We have just launched our school [Rock our Future competition](#) for its second year aimed at primary school children around the country.

Last year, we challenged students to design a quarry of the future, which used only renewable energy.

This year we are asking them to rehabilitate a former quarry and turn it into an asset for the community to use.

We believe the project can fit in with the science curriculum as an environmental project for years **5-8** with **4 x prizes of \$1,000** for each winning school and **4 x prizes of \$100** for each of the winning individual/team entries.

There've already been some responses from schools and what we need are some quarries that are up for helping. Please [contact our office](#) if you think you can assist. This is the sort of community engagement our industry needs.

The entry form can be found [here](#). The competition closes at the end of term two – Friday 3 July.

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## Highlights of what we have been up to since last issue

- Submissions on the Government's:
  - [Reducing Waste: MfE Discussion Document](#)
  - [CMA Review - Discussion Document](#)
  - [RMA Review](#)
- District Plans
  - [Waikato Economic Growth Strategy](#)

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## Minerals Forum Awards



The Minerals Sector Awards are an opportunity to recognise, reward, and celebrate excellence within the minerals and mining sector. This includes coal, gold, iron sands, industrial minerals, aggregates and a range of other minerals. Entries close 25th March.

The four award categories are:

- Health and Safety Initiative Award
- Innovation Award
- Environmental Management Award
- Community Initiative Award

For further details click [here](#).

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## AQA New Member

We welcome Vickers Quarries Ltd who have joined AQA as a new member recently.

**VICKERS QUARRIES**

Check out all our [members](#).

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## GENERATIONS OF QUARRY LIFE



200 hectares Lifetime Consented Quarry, Freehold Title, [513 Trig Road, Viewhill, Oxford, Canterbury](#)

- Circa 500,000 ton per year transport consent
  - Ongoing new products in development
  - Crushing, Screening and Washing plant for aggregates
  - No consent controls on extraction, production or stockpiling
  - Unique product for supply to NZ Government Sector nationally
  - Abundant plant with computerisation allows for two-man operation
  - Average tons sold last 7.5 years = 52,567, last 2.5 years = 64,986
  - Gross profit YTD at 69.3%
- Fully angular Basalt
  - Landscaping chips
  - Armour Rock
  - Dairy Lane Cappings (Sandstone and Shale)
  - Certified KiwiRail Ballast

Opportunity of joint venture with market leading national quarry company already interested in purchase.

**FOR SALE DUE TO THE CURRENT OWNER/FOUNDER RETIRING**

**FOR PRIVATE SALE  
\$4,250,000 + GST**

Contact Darryn 021 373582 or [darryn@wql.co.nz](mailto:darryn@wql.co.nz)

## Want to share communications from AQA?

Do you have others in your organisation who would find this newsletter informative and would benefit from the Members only area in the AQA website? Forward this email so they can [subscribe](#).