



Autumn greetings. Some species hibernate as winter approaches; no such luck for we humans but autumn is a time to take stock.

I've now had six months as Chief Executive of AQA. I'm heartened to have a Board that is driving and supporting change in the organisation to deliver what you and others have told us are important to you as AQA members and supporters.

The AQA's first strategic plan for some years is out. Our four key core strategies - and some early actions - for the next five years are:

- Providing **planning** advice to you as members and to lobby councils and Government to plan for and protect current and future aggregate resources
- **Action.** Our new Planning Committee is up and running and will provide you as a quarry owner with input into every Council plan affecting quarries. We've met key Government Ministers and think we are finally getting some traction with officials. Our revamped website will be up and running shortly and will include useful information for you when submitting on district and regional plans
- Improving the **technical** knowledge for you as members and users of our products and assisting you to achieve best practice in complying with operational, environmental and regulatory requirements. **Action.** AQA Technical Advisor Mike Chilton leads on tech issues such as the proposed

- Focus on **training**, engaging with IOQNZ and MITO to improve our industry's competence through initiating, promoting and supporting industry training and youth recruitment initiatives
- **Action.** AQA/MinEx's push for an extractives apprenticeship scheme now sees our fourth group of trainees embarking on an Extractives Industry apprenticeship. I'm also leading the charge on the proposed new vocational training changes, calling for more time and outlining the impact these polytechnic-centric proposals will mean for our small sector.

We are now sharing offices/resources with MinEx and Straterra allowing AQA a Wellington presence, to the benefit of members and enabling us to deliver on our strategy at modest costs.



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on some of those resources to develop an AQA/GNS application to the Provincial Growth Fund to complete a National Aggregates Resource map. If we get the funding your region will have a picture of where future aggregate supplies are located. (See story in this newsletter.)

changes to the M/4 specification which we have taken up vigorously on your behalf. We want more research to show if these changes are actually needed. We are also working with NZTA on assessment of Marginal aggregates for certain pavements

- Engaging with MinEx and developing an industry view on **health and safety** matters and advise and assist you as members with improved health and safety practices. **Action:** As joint CE of AQA and MinEx I'm now a third of the way through 20 regional workshops which allow you to be across H+S requirements, while gaining 8 hours formal CPD
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As an AQA member you also not get a monthly update either via this newish From the Quarry Face email newsletter or the alternate editions of Aggregate News (inside your free copy of Q+M magazine.)

I trust you see the value you are getting as an AQA member. With that comes two responsibilities. If not yet done so, please pay your AQA annual sub which includes a MinEx levy. And also, please have a look here at [our Strategic Plan](#) or ask for a copy at office@aqa.org.nz.

Stay safe and warm and enjoy the rest of this autumn edition of From the Quarry Face

Wayne

Wayne Scott
CE AQA/MinEx

AQA takes up gravel shutdown in Bay of Plenty



River gravels remain a key source for aggregate so when AQA heard about the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's (BOPRC's) decision to halt any new allocations for commercial gravel extraction on the Whakatāne, Tauranga, Waioeka and Otara Rivers, I wrote expressing concern.

I give credit to BOPRC's acting chief executive Chris Ingle that I had a reply within 10 days. My letter to him had noted that the closure issued last November, said the required technical analysis was due in the first quarter of 2019 but recent discussions with Council staff suggested this has not occurred and the ban on allocations of commercial gravel extraction would continue. I said that the ban was having a significant

Chris Ingle replied that while gravel extraction is a key river management method, when bed levels are too low, banks can erode and protection works and other services including bridges are undermined. The November decision reflected concern that extraction was degrading key river areas and the required technical analysis had been delayed due to an April 2017 flood event. He assured me the analysis report is expected to be published by early May.

He noted preliminary bed level results indicated the Waioeka and Tauranga Rivers will face annual allocation reductions which may continue for the next few years. The Council says it has been signaling this to the extraction industry and also trying to assist by

impact on the supply of aggregate to local ready-mix concrete plants, roading basecourse and high PSV sealing chip, used throughout the North Island on NZTA projects as well as on local quarrying companies.

advising where alternate significant commercial gravel could be extracted such as the Horomanga River.

This all reinforces the need for good planning to provide for aggregate resources.

Aggregate resource map

To that end, AQA has very recently, along with GNS Science, submitted an application to the Provincial Growth Fund for funding to create a national Aggregate Resource Map and database.

If successful, we would work in collaboration; AQA providing technical advice and liaison with councils/industry and GNS providing the geological and mapping data, interpretation and analysis.

The current GNS Aggregate model uses a simplistic engineering characterisation of existing geological mapping. This project would build in considerable physical property detail to the geological map units relevant for a range of aggregate and earth material types.

The result will be a national engineering and rock property map that can be used with much-improved confidence by planners, developers and central and local government. Rock property data from multiple sources would be digitised and added to PETLAB (GNS Science's publicly accessible rock and mineral properties database) as well as summarised for each geological unit in GNS Science's online national geological map of New Zealand.

The study would highlight those areas with potentially suitable rock sources for aggregate supply which could be targeted for further investigation and marked in planning documents so aggregate supplies are not sterilised by future development or non-compatible land uses.

Meanwhile...

The Government has recently announced the development of an Aotearoa New Zealand Resource Strategy for petroleum and minerals and commenced a review of the Crown Minerals Act. We have had preliminary discussions with MBIE officials to help develop a discussion document, due for public consultation in June. We've explained to officials that adequate provision must be made to recognise existing and potential aggregate and sand deposits and provide for their extraction.

As we keep saying, quarry materials are not universally available and can only be sourced from where they are located; without a strategy for these resources and planning to provide access to them at workable locations, there is the real risk of losing proximate resources. The National Aggregates Map proposal is very much part of supporting this strategy.

And, AQA fills in on landfill review

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is developing new national landfill classifications as part of the Government's plan to expand the waste levy. AQA is participating with a small team of landfill engineers and fill operators to develop assessment criteria for fill sites. This will enable MfE to assess a fill

If clean fill and/or managed fill were to be levied, there will be no incentive to separate clean and managed fill material from other materials and remediate them back into the land. AQA also believe it's appropriate to introduce exceptions to any levies on materials used for rehabilitation, such as

site's characteristics and identify the corresponding class (e.g. managed fill, controlled fill, cleanfill). AQA will strongly argue that clean fills and managed fills are made up of inert materials such as concrete, soil and rock which do not harm people or the environment.

cover material imposing levies on part of the rehabilitation process to clean fills and managed fills would discourage their use over more wasteful options due to increased costs. We will keep you advised – but if you have particular concerns or issues email me – wayne@aqa.org.nz



Quarries a focus at Minerals Forum

There's a considerable focus on quarrying issues at the second annual Minerals Forum which is now less than a month away on May 28/29 in Dunedin. While some presentations will be relevant to all in the extractive sector, there's a panel discussion on urban encroachment on quarry sites, a session on council's district plans led by Dunedin's Mayor Dave Cull who is also President of Local Government NZ, a look at the changes in the structure of the quarry market and a review of mineral use in NZ.

The registration and programme for the Minerals Forum are [here](#).



Dunedin City Council Mayor, Dave Cull

MIMICO Award – time go get your entry in

Community Award and where we used to have a number of winners, there is now just one and they receive a \$3,000 prize. All entrants will however receive publicity; in media and other publications, at our booth at QuarryNZ Conference in Invercargill, and will also feature on the AQA website.

The change also reflects the fact that many



There's been quite a revamp of Environment awards for quarrying, long sponsored by our good friends MIMICO in Matamata. The award is now the MIMICO Environment &

entries are about quarries engaging with their communities, as well as doing your bit for the environment.

Entries remain easy to submit – just complete [the one-page entry form](#) and get your GM or CEO to sign it; then Dr Morgan Williams, who judges the awards, will contact you to arrange a visit. The winner is announced at the 2019 QuarryNZ Conference in Invercargill in 17-19 July. And as autumn is a time to take stock and plan, it's timely to now [register](#) for our annual conference.