

Submission on the Overseas Investment (National Interest Test and Other Matters) Amendment Bill (the Bill)

July 2025

Introduction

The Aggregate and Quarry Association (AQA) is the industry body representing construction material companies which produce an estimated 48 million tonnes of aggregate and quarried materials consumed in New Zealand each year.

Funded by its members, the AQA has a mandate to increase understanding of the need for aggregates to New Zealanders, improve our industry and users' technical knowledge of aggregates, and assist in developing a highly skilled workforce within a safe and sustainable work environment.

Key points of our submission

- 1) We generally support the Bill and its purpose to reduce compliance costs and make decision making timelier, while also ensuring that the Government has the tools necessary to safeguard New Zealand's national interest, including its national security and public order.
- 2) Changes to consolidate the national interest, benefit to New Zealand, and investor tests into a single test should apply to applications involving nationally or regionally significant quarries, regardless of the classification of such land.
- 3) We support Clause 19 which inserts a new section 29B to provide repeat investor provisions for the new national interest test applications.

We make the following submission in relation to the Overseas Investment (National Interest Test and Other Matters) Amendment Bill.

Locationally constrained quarries

In many regions of New Zealand, quarrying is the most highly productive use of land for primary production and in most cases is a temporary land use, with site restoration a critical element to ensure that land is available for future generations. In many cases, site restoration can result in the delivery of land for future primary production or valuable new habitats, contributing towards national biodiversity targets and wider 'net gain' ambitions.

Nationally and regionally significant quarry materials are not universally available and can only be sourced from where they are located (locationally constrained due to geology). Often such resources cover an area greater than five hectares and are located on rural or farmland adjacent to urban centres and consequently are captured by the definition of sensitive land in the Bill.

Given the importance of quarrying to New Zealand, we believe that changes to consolidate the national interest, benefit to New Zealand, and investor tests into a single test should apply to applications involving nationally or regionally significant quarries, regardless of the classification of such land.

Repeat investor provisions

A number of quarry operators are covered by the provisions of the Overseas Investment Act, including one of the largest quarrying companies in New Zealand, and is required to make regular requests in relation to land purchases. We therefore support Clause 19 which inserts a new section 29B to provide repeat investor provisions for the new national interest test applications so that the regulator will not need to consider investor risk factors in any subsequent national interest test application.

General comments

Central and local government are investing an unprecedented amount of money into infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, roads and transport, to meet population growth. The New Zealand Government relies heavily on locally sourced aggregate resources for infrastructure repair following disasters, for road and rail transport corridors, major projects and for housing development, all of which are essential for the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of communities.

Aggregates and sand are on the Government's Critical Minerals List and form the foundation of every road and building, either directly or as part of materials such as concrete.

The relatively low threshold for defining overseas investment leads to the unintended consequence that many New Zealand companies are caught up in this legislation due to minority overseas shareholdings. The aggregates sector has experienced significant delays in Overseas Investment Office considerations of relatively minor land acquisitions for buffer land around quarries when there are more appropriate mechanisms for environmental regulation under the Resource Management Act.

We wish to speak to this submission in Select Committee hearings conducted in relation to this Bill.

Wayne Scott

Chief Executive Officer

[Aggregate and Quarry Association](#)

wayne@aqa.org.nz

021 944 336