



CHAIR'S REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Higgins, Environment & Planning Committee Chair

REFERENCE: S611

SUBJECT: **CHAIR'S REPORT – REPORT EP09/06/08** - Report prepared for meeting of 16 June 2009

On 4 and 5 of June, I attended the Aggregate & Quarry assoc of NZ conference in Nelson. The purpose of the conference was to find a way forward through the RMA and secure quarry resources for New Zealand's future and to develop a national strategy for supply. The field trip was hosted by Bruce Taylor of Fulton Hogan, and visited the York valley, Wairoa and Appleby Challies Island quarries. The different resources that come from these locations are interesting and included a small volume of colour rock chip exported for surface finishing.

It was interesting to hear that in some locations in New Zealand, only ten years of aggregate supply is consented, with significant difficulty in obtaining a new resource through the RMA process. Both Auckland and Christchurch are in this category and the consent requirements through both regional and district councils is a burden on the Industry. Auckland is using 150,000 tonnes per year and has consented quarries with 1,500,000 tonnes available. The difficulty in obtaining resource consents for this volume and associated traffic movement is understandable.

In 2007, New Zealand produced 46.34 million tones of aggregates worth \$592 Million. On average, each New Zealander consumes 10.9 tonnes (a six wheel truck load) each year. For each tonne of aggregate produced, a 30 kilometres travel distance doubles the cost.

In the Tasman District, the aggregate industry is well catered for, with a range of quarries close to the point of demand. We are permitting some gravel extraction from alluvial plains, and riverbeds on occasions. Given the steady increase in demand, and looking out 100 years or so, the volume of aggregates required are significant and it is clear to me that alluvial gravels will be of increasing value and the quarry locations need to be protected. Mountains of rock will be quarried, crushed and used for lime, cement, road foundations, concrete, road chip and other uses.

On other subjects, I wish to thank Committee members for continuing the progress on Richmond West Zoning issues during the busy budgeting months. I like the progress that we are making, and as the detail of the zone builds I am confident of a good outcome. Also, my appreciation to the members who heard the "Gardens of the World" consent application while the rest of us spent the week catching up on other things.

There are interesting subjects for today's agenda, and hopefully they will not be difficult.

Michael Higgins
Chair, Environment & Planning Committee