



## From the Quarry Face

An AQA update

## Welcome back to From the Quarry Face

It's not yet March but it feels like mid-year. The AQA Board met last week and confirmed a range of strategies designed to continue lifting our performance for you as members.

If I can just note some of the things we've got moving the last few weeks and months, I hope you can see we are making real progress.

- We have moved into the Straterra office space and are benefiting financially and strategically from those shared resources
- That backup means I can manage my dual roles as Chief Executive of AQA and MinEx
- We've had meetings with several key Cabinet Ministers and more are coming, with a particular focus on improving the way aggregates are planned for
- Coming out of one of those meetings with Infrastructure Minister Shane Jones – was his frustration at the cost of aggregates for a new major wharf at Opotiki. We've worked with GNS and delivered a report identifying six alternate and lower-cost sources of aggregate
- We've tackled NZTA via media on your behalf on its emerging prescriptive approach to M/4, which if not resolved could add unnecessary time and expenses to M/4 production or see it curtailed
- A re-forged Planning Committee has met with a brief that includes helping AQA submit on as many high-level council plans as is appropriate; providing advice and picking up on issues to ensure we have a united voice. Submissions have already been made on the Far North, Selwyn and Waikato district plans.

There's a lot more to achieve this year, including marking our 50th anniversary. As well as holding a celebratory dinner in Christchurch in October, the AQA is holding a competition for primary schools called Rock our Future – to design a 21st century quarry. (Details of both in this newsletter).

Keep rocking – it's going to be a big year.

**Wayne Scott**  
Chief Executive  
AQA & MinEx

## State of the Union

At this month's Board meeting, I presented the 2019/20 budget. The forecast expenditure is \$332,758 which is up about \$45k on the previous year as we move the AQA towards

- effective contribution into central and local government planning policies, ongoing involvement in planning hearings and contributions to all

a wider range of services.

The Board also approved a Three Year Strategy for 2021/22 to deliver:

- a well governed and managed, fiscally sound and fully compliant AQA
- significantly improved knowledge of the importance of aggregates and issues facing the quarry industry by central and local government and by the public
- significant improvements in the technical knowledge of both producers and users of quarry products with producers achieving best practice in operational, environmental and regulatory compliance

relevant government policies including National Policy Statements

an AQA that has high public and

- governmental profile and access, is regularly sought for media comment and which effectively contributes to any debate on quarry or aggregate issues
- promotion of the quarry industry as a career for school leavers and adult entrants; ongoing contribution and support for industry training and health and safety initiatives.

I hope you continue to support the AQA and the increasing value myself and the Board intend it to bring to members.

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## Time for some jubilation

In October 1969, a group of industry stalwarts from the quarry sector met in Wellington and formed the Aggregate and Quarry Association. So we are going to have a jubilee event to mark our half century. The venue is yet to be confirmed but likely to be in Christchurch. We hope to offer enough space to line up some of the machinery from

50 years ago to the present day. If you'd like to exhibit some equipment and thus contribute to the event, please contact Wayne Scott. The date is looking like the 5th or 12th of October. Please put a hold on those dates. It promises to be a great reunion and celebration of all that we have achieved to date.

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## AQA looks to the future

As well as remembering our past, we need to look to our future. The Board has approved as part of the AQA 50-year anniversary the Rock our Future school competition. We are looking to quarries to work with schools in their areas that wish to participate. This is part of how our industry needs to promote and position itself for ongoing success.

Pupils from years 5 to 8 are being asked to develop a process for producing aggregate in a 21<sup>st</sup> century quarry – designing plant and vehicles that use a sustainable energy source ie. not fossil fuels.

The crushing plant must be able to produce 100 tonne per hour of aggregate. Raw feed for the crushing plant has already been produced and stockpiled. Projects need to be

completed by the end of Term 2 (5 July) with winners announced at the jubilee dinner. There are four prizes of \$1,000 for the winning schools in each year of 5, 6, 7 and 8 and four prizes of \$100 for each of the winning students in each year. Teachers and students are encouraged to approach local quarries for information and assistance with work on their projects.

We are developing a teacher learning guide for publication that goes to 27,000 teachers, in March. There will also shortly be a version of this resource loaded to our website [www.aqa.org.nz](http://www.aqa.org.nz).

If you have a local school interested – or would like to encourage one – please give me a call or email [wayne@aqa.org.nz](mailto:wayne@aqa.org.nz), 021 944 336.

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# Meanwhile at MinEx



*Wayne at the Blenheim MinEx WorkSafe workshop this week*

We have now had the first three of 20 MinEx workshops that are being held this year from Northland to Southland. There was a good 30+ turnout for the first 1-day workshop at Palmerston North, a small number at Blenheim and 20+ at Nelson. These are run in two half day sessions (on the same day), so you can earn 8 hours CPD all in the one day. The focus is on Operating and Safety Systems, Emergency Management, Leadership and Legislation.

There is a wealth of practical advice provided at the workshops. Wayne draws on his 30+ years experience in quarries and mines, including as a regulator.

Some of the photos shown in the workshops are drawn from his real-life experiences. WorkSafe inspectors are co-hosting the workshops, providing an overview of the Health and Safety at Work Act and informing attendees that they know where just about every quarry in New Zealand is located and are gradually working their way around them. You are much better to get on top of what's required than think you won't be detected and then have to face the consequences.

The cost is just \$100 + GST to attend a workshop. Details [here](#) (next up are **Waipukurau** on March 14 and **Dunedin** on March 20).

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## Bin girlie posters

I've been pleased to see some industry-wide commendation after Inside Resources reported incidents of women visiting workplaces with "girlie calendars" hung on the

Things like girlie calendars are offensive, clearly inappropriate and it's simply unacceptable to display this sort of material. I would appeal to anyone who thinks such

wall, which made them feel uncomfortable and unwelcome.

I am appalled that in this day and age and at a time when we are wanting to show respect to all of those who work in our industry that any operator, supplier or service provider in our sector would think it acceptable to produce or display such material.

things are 'a bit of harmless fun', to consider if it would be acceptable to have their own wives, partners or daughters pictured in such a degrading fashion? We are a 21<sup>st</sup> century industry. If such posters ever were acceptable, they are decades out of date.

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## If you want to succeed, plan

The first meeting of the new Planning Committee was held at the Auckland office of Golder Associates in late January.

Our members are myself, Don Chittock from Fulton Hogan, Tyler Sharrat from Winstone Aggregates, Dudley Clemens from J Swap Contractors, Keven Bligh from Golders, Stacy Goldsworthy representing Civil Contractors NZ, and Jeremy Harding from Straterra.

Our brief is to have the AQA doing more in the planning space and submitting on as many high-level plans as is appropriate,

providing advice, and picking up on issues, to ensure we have a united industry voice.

The submissions will sometimes be "generic", for example what was provided to the Far North District Plan recently. This group will approve submissions going forward. The framework needs to be flexible as you as members may have different views of a plan.

If you are submitting on a plan, we will shortly have guidelines available on our website.

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## A line in the sand

The AQA Board endorsed my stand against NZTA on expanding its requirement for M/4 testing, known as Sand Grading Exponent (SGE.) We are quite clear that this is based on statistically invalid research and if allowed to be implemented, will push unnecessary testing costs onto you as AQA members. The Board did ask Mike and Brendon as our Technical and Communications advisers to work up a readily understandable guide to what this is all about. This will be sent out shortly.

### **Here's an early draft:**

Sand Grading Exponent (SGE) is a sand grading shape measure for basecourse. It is required in NZTA's NZ Guide to Pavement Evaluation and Treatment Design (Rehab Guide) and has crept into other contract documents recently.

AQA is against this measure as it leads to delays in use of otherwise compliant aggregate while Repeated Load Triaxial (RLT) testing is carried out. This means increased costs for any project. Early analysis shows about 25% of M/4 doesn't pass the SGE limit of no material being less than  $\geq 0.4\text{mm}$ .

That is unacceptable for the 200+ quarries producing M/4. Please be alert to this requirement in project specifications and let Mike Chilton ([tech@aga.org.nz](mailto:tech@aga.org.nz)) know if you see it in projects that aren't designed under the Rehab Guide. Meantime, we will continue to oppose it with NZTA.

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# AQA's key messages

Brendon provided the Board with a new Communications Plan for the AQA to use over the next three years. It runs to a number of strategies but I'd like to share our key messages with you.

These can be used by everyone when engaging with any member of the public, politicians or media.

- **New Zealand regions are seeing a lift in roading costs which reflect shortages and demand for aggregate around the country**
- **We have a strong economy with much demand for roads and homes**
- **Every one of these require aggregate – it's the foundation of all we build**

- **The big cost comes if we have to truck material any distance**
- **Yet it's getting harder to get quarries in urban fringes consented**
- **If that continues, New Zealanders will increasingly pay more for their roads and homes**
- **The AQA represents the nation's producers who are committed to working with local communities and councils to meet all resource consent conditions while providing the foundation for our economy.**

These key messages won't fit every situation but as the old saying goes, when you start hearing something for the seventh time, it starts to be remembered.

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