

# Submission on the Fast Track Application by Winstone Aggregates for the Development of the Hunua Quarry

Reference: FTAA-2603-1185

Submitter:

BD & CM Park

[REDACTED]

Property Impacted by Quarry, current and future.

[REDACTED]

To Fast Track Panel

## 1. Consultation

We were not directly contacted by Winstone re this proposed development and only became informed via another family member neighbour of the Winstone properties, and the fast Track notification letter 14 July. On meeting with Winstone planners in March 2026, their explanation for not directly contacting us was our property was unoccupied, despite this information being readily available on Auckland Council GIS property information and the fact that we are on the Quarries contact list for blasting notification and neighbour consultation, regularly attending meetings at the quarry where we maintained our current contact details. A poor show and indicative of Winstone attitude to neighbours, those directly affected by Winstone activities.

## 2. Quarry Life

We were active by our involvement with the HEPSI group in submission on the current consent application, 8730, for the development of the Symonds Hill (RIP) pit. At that time, we requested information from Winstone and the Regulators as to next staging for the Quarry, however this was not relevant as the consent was only for a duration of 35 years, yet it was obvious that further development was intended, as this application confirms.

**Referenced in the AEE is the development of an “End of Quarry” strategy. This should be part of this consideration in assessing this consent approval as the effects of the quarrying operation will endure beyond any consent. Affected parties have the right to know.**

## 3. Mangapū Stream Flows

By way of background. We have owned this property for many years now, and prior to our ownership the land was owned by CK & ME Franks and operated as a dairy farm up until its subdivision circa 1990. Up until September 2024, we, together with other Franks family members, operated the land residual to that subdivided, Kauri View Road, as a dry stock farming operation, run from 254 Ponga Road. We drew water for stock watering from a surface “take” from the Mangapū Stream for the dairying, and subsequent dry stock farming operations. The “take” is located at approx. 200m downstream of the Kauri View Road culvert and continues in use by the now owner of 254 Ponga Road.

The resulting development of the Symonds Hill pit, has seen substantial change in the landscape with the Hill being quarried to what is now a deep pit. The quarrying/excavation has had a significant impact on the residual flow in the Mangapū stream, due to cutting off of streams, springs, perched

water tables, lowering of the regional water table and the natural surface catchment of the stream. To us, as operators of a farming operation requiring a “take” for stock watering, this has been obvious and noticeable, especially during periods of low flow during summer and other dry spells – not necessarily defined 1 Dec to 31 March. Whilst anecdotal, this impact has been obvious requiring us to build rock weir(s) to ensure our water intake was submerged. Conversely high flows also result in flooding Kauri View Road, Jack Paterson Road, Sutton Road and are a matter of record with Council. To us the stream response time in high flows has increased significantly. These issues have been raised at quarry consultation meetings, with no feedback received. Further, the purposed diversion of the Mangapū Stream and the steepening of the stream gradient will further exacerbate high flows response.

In reviewing this consent application, the AEE report, Flow Augmentation B3.9.3.4 Cl 318/319 and Groundwater Monitoring and Contingency Planning section Appendix B12.8.12, it is clear that no work prior to the Symonds Hill consent was done to properly characterise the Mangapū catchment in order to inform conditions required to maintain minimum stream flows required for stream health and aquatic life and specify minimum offset compensation requirements. It is noted that the consent requires that the stream be monitored **twice only** during periods 1 Dec to 31 March at nominated locations and that if flows drop 5% below MALF then the pumped compensation system at Coalmine Road be brought into service. Retroactive not proactive responsive. I am quite incredulous, given my own personal experience in operating and managing compensation flow systems at Watercare’s Hunua Dams that ensure adequate stream flows compensating for flow disruption resulting for the dam’s construction. Winstone Consultants and Auckland Council regulators should have, and do have, far better understanding and capability to assess, stream characterisation and environmental effects and requirements and design mitigation systems. It is surprising that a monitoring weir has not been constructed, and is not proposed, that provides continuous flow monitoring that informs and enables control of a proper compensation system, example Hunua and Waitakere water supply dams. A potential site could be Kauri View Road culvert. Too expensive? Small dollars relative to the quarry development proposals and the long-term benefits to the stream environment.

It is clear from this section of the AEE re groundwater that there is significant impacted potential anticipated on bores and stream flow due to excavation of the pit to -75mRL, it is therefore a logical interpretation that surface water stream flow will also be impacted.

**A properly designed and engineered stream monitoring and compensation control flow system should be a minimum requirement of any consent, including a comprehensive stream hydrology characterisation and environment assessment, albeit retrospective, correcting a flaw in the current consent.**

#### **4. Quarry Extension South East**

It is proposed that the quarry zone boundary be extended to now include the what is described B2.4.4 cl. 88, 89, 90 and B2.10 cl. 134, 135, in the AEE 38.2ha of and elsewhere, Outstanding Natural Landscape, Regional Threatened “Endangered” Tawa, Taraire, Kānuka podocarp vegetation of High Value natural character. This area covered under SEA-T-5323 designation within the Auckland Council Unitary Plan. 134,

It was required under the current 2009 consent that this area be covenanted however, Winstone have chosen not to do so knowing that this will conflict with the future development. We consider this a quite cynical and reflects Winstone attitude to protection of high value environment

demonstrated when they constructed the block plant adjacent to the crusher plant that required clearing of significant stands of pristine forest.

HEPSI strongly resisted at the time the extension of this quarry footprint into this area. MOE also at the time in their submission noted the high value natural vegetation of this area. We have not been able to access the MOE submission to this application as it is redacted on the website.

Whilst this may significantly increase the volume of aggregate extraction, we contend that this comes at a high price environmentally, both flora and fauna. Loss of the Symonds Hill vegetation significantly native bird life desecration of their habitat. Once lost, despite offset mitigation, the recovery over time is many generations, if ever. The overall quarry footprint as it exists will yield significantly, it will require advancement of staging in other areas to the NW.

Throughout this section of the AEE the high-quality nature of the flora and fauna contained within this area and significant periphery areas are well described and reflective of the area. The Panel is urged to take cognisance of this in its decision. A helicopter view of this is recommended.

Further, this proposal includes diversion of the tributary to the Mangapū stream. This is a major and destructive of this pristine environment and should not proceed. As described within the AEE, the increased gradient will impact stream flow characteristics. The process leading up to the current consent was flawed in that it did not require that a comprehensive assessment and characterisation of the Mangapū stream catchment be undertaken and the assessment of effects of the quarry development over time on the stream.

**The extension of the quarry zone into this area and the diversion of the Mangapū stream should not be approved.**

## **5. Mitigation Offset Planting**

Section B7.2.3.1 Cl. 534-539 describes the offset mitigation strategy for loss of 44.6ha of indigenous forest. Mitigation planting of 96.7ha is required to meet offset guidelines (cl536). Significant offset planting is proposed at locations out of region, 29.4ha at Meremere Quarry and within the Hunua Regional Park, Mangatawhiri River. These together with pest control.

We would contend that any offset planting and associated pest control should be undertaken within the region proximate and adjacent to the quarry with the objective of offsetting the degradation of the Ponga Road ONL resulting from the loss of the once prominent Symonds Hill landscape feature and other historic land use activities including Papakura Council refuse dump. Adjacent to the Freidman Block is the Kauri View reserve, an area of recovering indigenous forest that has plenty of enhancement potential. When viewed from Ponga, Opaheke and Sutton Roads, and even distant Whangapouri Road in Karaka, there are obvious opportunities to enhance the Ponga Road ONL in the immediate vicinity west and northwest of the quarry. Our property at [REDACTED] has approximately 60% of 8ha fenced and protected from livestock and contains well established and recovering indigenous forest that presents an opportunity for further enhancement, as are other adjacent properties. We would be prepared to discuss this opportunity with Winstone or with Auckland Council. These properties could be integrated with the adjacent Kauri View reserve. Noting that including these adjacent areas within mitigation zones supports the “Quarry Buffer Zone” which has never been defined and has always been seen as threat to any development of adjacent land.

The beneficiaries of out-of-region planting and pest control at Meremere are Fletcher Concrete and that local environment, but not the Hunua quarry environment where the actual loss as proposed by this application and historically. Mitigation measures proposed for the Hunua Regional Park are

supported as they are in-regional, however this should not be undertaken at the expense of the maximising the offset possible in the immediate vicinity of the quarry, Ponga Road ONL.

Due to the poor management of the Refuse dump operated by Papakura District Council pest control is a challenge beyond the resources of adjacent land owners and the significant population of feral cats and rats impacting on native bird species. Whilst not Winstone responsibility, it is Auckland Council reasonability to mitigate the long-term effects of the refuse dump operation. A joint effort of pest management in the wider interest of future protection and enhancement by Council and Winstone should be considered.

**Offset mitigation planting and pest control initiatives must be undertaken on land immediately adjacent to the quarry, and not out of region areas as proposed, with the objectives of enhancing the Ponga Road ONL mitigating for the loss of the indigenous forest, as proposed by this application, and the historic loss of Symonds Hill significant landscape forest cover.**

## **6. Transport System Affects**

This application projects an 111% increase in traffic volumes on the Hunua, Settlement and Beach Roads, but concludes that these roads have been constaructed and maintained adequately to carry this capacity. Missing from these assessments is the impact on the alternative “rat-run” routes used by query trucks, Boundary, Opaheke, Sutton and Great South roads. These roads are all at capacity at peak times with significant congestion and associated safety issues.

Projects proposed by NZTA and Auckland Transport for capacity and functional improvement, Mill Road and Papakura-Drury Arterial, are constantly deferred exacerbating transport issues. To say in this AEE that the current transport routes are adequate to take this increase in truck volume is grossly misleading.

## **7. Conclusion**

We have raised a number of issues, not exhaustive, in this submission of concern. We feel that this Fast Track process does no allow or enable adequate consultation or opportunity for communication and does not collective encourage community inputs, rather a divide and conquer approach.

However, we make this submission based on concerns, as neighbours to the quarry for more than 50 years. The creeping nature of this quarry development since 2009 that has diminished the rural nature and our surrounding environs with the loss of significant indigenous forest cover that characterised the Ponga Road ONL. The clear and obvious impact on the Mangapū stream flows and health during the frequent extended periods of low flow have directly impacted on us.

We are prepared to make personal submission to the panel in support of this submission.

Yours faithfully



Brian Park

Contact details:

**Brian & Kate Park**

[Redacted contact details]

