



MINED - YOUR BUSINESS



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

- GNS advise there are many areas prospective for strategic minerals (albeit most of those areas are on conservation land)
- And, of course, the second Minerals Forum is fast approaching – May 28-29, in Dunedin. Not to be missed.

organisations – the AQA now shares our office, and some of our resources. Wayne Scott was looking for more to do and is now the CEO of MinEx and AQA, and a proportion of Jeremy and Sarah's time is allocated to AQA. This is an excellent step forward for the mining and quarry sectors – a particular area of synergy is covering and addressing local and regional planning, and we now have a comprehensive monitoring system in place.

Climate change policy remains a priority for us. Our position on this complex issue remains clear – emissions reductions must be economically rational, consistent with global progress and maintaining competitiveness. There are no winners if we reduce emissions by shifting both jobs and investment overseas! It's a little bit encouraging to see government rhetoric shifting from 12 months ago – 'industrial coal is low-hanging fruit' to, more recently, 'industrial coal is challenging'.

Chris Baker

A challenging year lies ahead for our sector - perhaps they all are!

There are many positives of course:

- Global coking coal demand is strong so prices are good
- The gold price is well supported and looks particularly good in \$NZ or \$Au – that coupled with OGC's investment and recent exploration success in New Zealand is very encouraging
- Other developments in Otago and the West Coast in industrial minerals and gold are also very positive

On the negative side, the No New Mines proposition hangs over our industry like the Sword of Damocles – see the article below. We have recently written to all MPs on this issue and will continue to press our case through traditional and, over time, social media. A notable upcoming event is a Mineral West Coast (MWC) organised event in Parliament on 12 March.

Straterra has undergone a few changes in the last 12 months. New staff – Sarah Walker, Business Manager; Mikaela Marsh, Office Co-ordinator; and Jeremy Harding, Policy and Communications Manager. New

MINING ON CONSERVATION LAND

Fifteen months have passed since the announcement, out of the blue, to ban mining on conservation land. Following that announcement a discussion document was proposed – to seek public input on implementation!

That document has yet to surface, we presume because the issues are complex – on any evidence-based analysis the 'solution' appears to be much worse than the problem.

Our opposition remains staunch and unchanged. If the proposition is about coal and reducing emissions – we have the ETS, the Climate Change Commission, and we value jobs and maintaining New Zealand's competitiveness. If the proposition is about mining generally and the risk to biodiversity – well, where's the logic?

Mining now occurs on only 0.04% of conservation land and those mines are consented through the RMA and other relevant regulations.

All mines should be – and in New Zealand they are – responsible mines.

Implementing the No New Mining proposition is a proxy for 'ideology' dictating mining proposals. Straterra, and we suggest most New Zealanders, prefer to rely on an independent evidence-based process – oh yes, we have the RMA. We argue that any significant new mining proposal should provide a 'net positive benefit'. For sure, measuring that outcome is difficult and that's another argument for an independent process that seeks to reflect current societal standards.

Straterra has offered to work with the government and relevant NGOs to address the concerns that have led to this proposition. Can we define the problem and develop practical and appropriate solutions?

Of course, we don't know the answer to that with any certainty but it seems a hell of a good idea to try.



MINEX UPDATE

Health and Safety Workshops

MinEx has announced the facilitation of workshops to deliver a full-day of training in 18 provincial locations. Providing 8 hours CPD, the workshops, co-hosted by WorkSafe, start next month in Palmerston North and finish in Whakatane in November.

MinexNZ App

Recognising that most of us rely so much on those devices that sit in our pockets, MinEx has now worked to develop an app that allows us to better stay in touch with you. The app can now be downloaded from the Apple App store or Google Play store and it's FREE. On it you will be able to see what workshops are coming up, register, receive notifications and also reminders.

Mining and Quarrying Regulations

MBIE received 129 submissions on the Mining and Quarrying Regulations review and have indicated amended timing for implementation of revised Regulations. Policy work will be completed by April 2019, with Cabinet decisions by mid-year, and implementation of revised regulations by October 2019.

Worker Health Resources

Following the release of their Slope Stability field book in September 2018, MinEx have developed further field books on Managing Dust, particularly RCS, and Mental Health. These will both be released during February. A number of flyers on worker health issues are available on the MinEx website. The fifth in the series, on Fatigue, will be released during February.

WE DIG A LITTLE HUMOUR!



HATES MINING . . . Would die without his iPhone!

THE NEW ZEALAND MINERALS FORUM

The [New Zealand Minerals Forum](#) is being held from 27-29 May in Dunedin. This is the second Forum Straterra has run with Freeman Media, and it builds on the excellent success of the inaugural event in Queenstown in 2018. We want this event to be the showcase for our industry, to be an important part of how we present our industry as a modern and vital part of the economy and society – today and in the future.

Support at this stage is strong and we expect 2019 to be bigger than the 2018 Forum – and that's great for our sector. Highlights will include the keynote speaker, the Minister's address and the political panel discussion. If you have not yet registered, get in quick, early bird closes on 28 February.



New Zealand Minerals Forum 2019

Exploring science, technology and new markets

Dunedin, May 28-29

AQA UPDATE

School Project Competition

The Aggregate and Quarry Association (AQA) turns 50 this year and to mark the anniversary they are conducting a competition for primary school children.

The Rock Our Future project competition challenges children in years 5 to 8 to come up with an aggregate production process in a quarry which uses the Earth's natural forces to generate power (no fossil fuel available). Schools are being encouraged to approach local quarries for information and assistance with students working on a project.



THE AGGREGATE & QUARRY ASSOCIATION OF NZ

Meetings with Government and Officials

In recent months AQA have produced a briefing document for Government, had encouraging meetings with a couple of Cabinet Ministers, and made submissions on National Planning Standards and three district plans.

Encouraging discussions with Minister Megan Woods on identification and protection of future quarry resources, has led to them writing to her office just prior to Christmas, and pursuing funding alternatives for this work.

Roading Aggregate Technical Requirements

AQA have recently expressed industry fears that new requirements for roading aggregate from the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) will end up reducing the number of sites making basecourse and increase the cost of road building. While not currently part of the M/4 spec, NZTA have indicated their intention to add Sand Grading Exponent (SGE) analysis to the M/4 spec. Early analysis indicates that more than 24% of M/4 will be non-compliant, leading to additional testing costs, associated delays to roading projects and a reduction in sites producing M/4.

AQA are actively working with NZTA to convince them that such testing is unnecessary.