



# MINED - YOUR BUSINESS



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

At Straterra we deal with, and are challenged by, a big range of views and ideologies.

A case in point - Is burning coal immoral? Unethical?

That's the accusation of University of Otago academic Alex Macmillan in relation to the schools that use coal to heat their classrooms. A Stuff article reports that more than 60 schools around New Zealand use coal and refers to this as a 'dirty little secret'.

What nonsense. Is driving a petrol car unethical? What's the secret?

This illustrates a big challenge in the work we do at Straterra. Most options we face in dealing with the transition to lower emissions have multiple

and competing priorities. Air New Zealand can stop using jet fuel, but we would have no air travel. The dairy sector in New Zealand can stop using coal to make milk powder, but we would pay a severe price in terms of jobs, export revenue, taxes... and neither of these examples would make any dent in the global response to reducing emissions. The same goes for the Government's goal for electricity generation to be 100% renewable by 2035. How do we achieve that, maintain energy security and continue to deliver electricity at a 'reasonable' price? What we need is a mature discussion that allows these competing priorities to be put on the table and assessed.

And that requires respect for science and evidence - not the scaremongering we are constantly bombarded with. Stuff's recent article illustrating a drowning Wellington by 2150 is a case in point.

It's not Straterra's science and evidence that matters, or Forest and Birds (while noting

we each have our own area of expertise), it's the science and evidence that stands up to independent scrutiny. That applies equally to the impact mining makes on the environment and to the options we have to reduce emissions. If I confined my reading to Stuff I would believe that New Zealand can meet the global climate change challenge on its own. Who cares what other countries do?

Two of the big issues we are dealing with at present - mining on conservation land and meeting the climate change challenge - would benefit greatly from a clear focus on the relevant science and evidence. Hopefully for climate change policy that will come with the soon to be established, independent Climate Change Commission, and for mining proposals, the case-by-case approach under the effects-based RMA has served us well.

*Chris Baker*

## LEADERS' DEBATE SURE TO BE LIVELY

A highlight of next month's New Zealand Minerals Forum in Dunedin (May 27-29) will be the Leaders' Debate. Expect plenty of opposing views and verbal sparring when Minister for Regional Economic Development Shane Jones (NZ First), Opposition Spokesperson for Energy and Resources Jonathan Young (National) and Forest & Bird Chief Executive Kevin Hague go head to head at the Dunedin Town Hall.

The session will be facilitated by Brian Fallow, a senior journalist highly regarded across the political spectrum.

The debate brings down the curtain on two days of presentations, seminars and exhibitions, in what has quickly become one of the highlights of the New Zealand mining sector calendar.

Minister of Energy and Resources, Hon Dr Megan Woods is scheduled to speak early on the opening day on the topic of 'Applying science and innovation to advance our minerals estate'.



## New Zealand Minerals Forum 2019

*Exploring science, technology and new markets*

**Dunedin, May 28-29**

Another highlight will be the New Zealand Minerals Sector Awards 2019, which celebrates excellence in the extractives sector. Winners will be revealed at a gala dinner at the end of Day One.

For more information and to reserve your place at the Forum, visit [www.mineralsforum.co.nz](http://www.mineralsforum.co.nz)



## **MINEX UPDATE**

### **Health and Safety Workshops**

MinEx have started delivery of H&S Workshops in 18 provincial locations. Providing eight hours CPD, the workshops – co-hosted by WorkSafe – have attracted good numbers in Palmerston North, southern Hawkes Bay, Dunedin and Marlborough. For workshop details, head to [MinEx](#).

### **Mining and Quarrying Regulations**

MBIE have completed a review of submissions and policy work on the Mining and Quarrying Regulations review and have indicated a revised timing for implementation of revised Regulations. Cabinet decisions will be made by mid-year, and implementation of revised regulations by October 2019.

### **Reform of Vocational Education**

We have submitted on the Government's proposed wide-ranging changes to vocational education. It is extremely unlikely that such a significant change could be in place by 2020, and to rush it would be a disaster. It is essential that any changes continue to provide effective on-the-job training for our sector and we do not see any improvement as a result of removing ITOs, unless whatever replaces them can deliver:

- Quality Unit Standards that are appropriate for our sector
- Programme learning outcomes that meet industry needs
- Availability and accessibility of training that is a blend of on-site, e-learning and classroom-based training
- Good moderation of Unit Standard delivery and assessment
- A system that is flexible and able to change and adapt as necessary
- Ability to deliver non-qualification-based training and assessments (CoCs)

### **Changes to CPD**

The New Zealand Mining Board of Examiners has announced that a review of continuing professional development (CPD) will be conducted this year. They intend to provide more options for Certificate of Competency holders to achieve the requirements, but also maintain the value of CPD. They also want to consult on the possibility of providing a one-off transition process to allow CoC holders who have not met their annual requirements to 'catch up' CPD hours.

## **NO NEW MINES AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOURCE STRATEGY**

The government has recently announced it is developing a Resource Strategy focusing on how New Zealand can sustainably derive value from its petroleum and minerals resources.

This is an excellent initiative. There have been numerous ad hoc decisions from governments over recent years not recognising the nature of minerals. The development of a Resource Strategy is an important opportunity to consider the role of minerals and how New Zealand can benefit from them.

The Resource Strategy will articulate the government's long-term vision for the petroleum and minerals sector in New Zealand and will underpin its review of the Crown Minerals Act.

We think the government's proposal to end new mining on conservation land, as well as any review of Stewardship land, would benefit greatly from consideration in the context of the Resources Strategy, rather than as an isolated and ad hoc exercise. This applies equally to aggregates and industrial minerals.

We continue to promote our view that an independent, case-by-case approach to exploration, assessing and approving mining on conservation land, as provided by the Resource Management Act and other legislation, is much more robust and fairer than a blanket ban.

## **NEW WOMEN'S NETWORK TO BE LAUNCHED AT MINERALS FORUM**

Women play an increasingly crucial role in our sector, which is why Straterra is delighted to announce the establishment of the Women in Extractives Network NZ (WENNZ).

Sharon Flynn of OceanaGold will officially launch the Network at the 2019 New Zealand Minerals Forum Welcome Function in Dunedin on 27 May.

WENNZ aims to increase the number of women in the industry, enhance their visibility, and to enable networking opportunities and support in the sector. It also seeks to promote diversity and inclusion by creating pathways and to assist in increasing the network of wahine toa at all levels, across New Zealand's mining, quarrying and drilling sectors.

If you're keen to get involved or have suggestions for the network, let us know at [event@straterra.co.nz](mailto:event@straterra.co.nz)



## Aggregates & Quarry Association (AQA) Strategic Review

The AQA have recently conducted a strategic review. Our vision is to provide industry promotion through public education and advocacy by increasing our industry's profile with local, regional, and central government, the public, and users of our products by engaging with stakeholders and the wider New Zealand community. The AQA will achieve this through four core strategies:



- Planning - Provide planning advice for our members and lobby councils and government to ensure they are planning for future aggregate resources and protecting future and current aggregate resources from sterilisation.
- Technical - Improve the technical knowledge of New Zealand aggregates for our members and users of our products and assist members to attain best practice in complying with operational, environmental and regulatory requirements.
- Health & Safety - Through engagement with MinEx, develop an industry view on health and safety matters and advise and assist our members with improved health and safety practices.
- Training and Personnel - Through engagement with IOQ, improve our industry's competence through initiating, promoting and supporting industry training, and youth recruitment initiatives.

## National Aggregates Study

Further to our engagement with the Provincial Growth Fund on the Opotiki Wharf Project, we have developed, with GNS, a funding proposal to complete the National Aggregates Study, already commenced by GNS, conduct a pilot study in the Bay of Plenty, and develop an interactive Aggregate Resources Model which will be publicly available. If funding can be secured by May 2019, the project will be completed by 31 December 2019.

## Roading Aggregate Technical Requirements

We are currently working with NZTA on a review of Marginal Aggregates. AQA would like a performance option as well as a level of prescription, as often performance testing is the only option in order to make a local product work. We believe a holistic use of quarried materials, optimising the quarry's output of all products including overburden, will benefit the end user as well as extending the life of quarries.

