

GWRC PPC1 – HS1- 1pm – 30/6/2023

Phil Heffernan, Winstone Aggregates, S162

Chair, judge, commissioners,

Kia ora tātou,

Ko Te Mata te maunga,

Ko Tukituki te awa,

Nō Heretaunga ahau,

Ko Heffernan tōku whānau,

Ko Piripi tōku ingoa.

My name is Phil Heffernan, I am a Principal Planner with Winstone Aggregates. Winstone's is a pivotal player in the Wellington region's aggregate supply chain.

Today, I bring to the panel's attention critical issues relating to the Proposed Plan Change 1 (PPC1) and its potential impacts on the aggregate industry, sustainable quarrying activities, and regional development.

My first point of concern centres on the wide-ranging implications of the Freshwater Planning Instrument (FPI) in Plan Change 1.

The s32 report, in my professional view, fails to thoroughly analyse the potential impact this instrument might have on sectors such as the aggregate industry, specifically when it encompasses areas crucial to our operations.

Further, the document does not sufficiently recognise the role of the supply chain, especially mineral and aggregate extraction.

Moreover, the imminent increase in demand due to the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) seems inadequately addressed. It's disconcerting that these vital aspects, integral to our region's progression, appear overlooked.

The cost-benefit analysis in the s32 report appears deficient in its examination of the potential repercussions of the proposed policies on the aggregate industry, and the resulting costs to the Region.

The strategic significance of the aggregate industry to the region's growth must be acknowledged and evaluated appropriately.

Interpreting key principles within PPC1, particularly those related to biodiversity offsetting and compensation, is a source of concern. The proposed changes seemingly conflict with the current RMA legislative framework, relevant case law.

I have personal concerns regarding the potential consequences of including a Draft NPS document provision into the FPI process. This mirrors my experience with the Auckland Unitary Plan since 2015, where fast track provisions have remained despite initial intent for temporary inclusion. A precautionary approach, in my view, should be at the forefront when using these mechanisms. We are looking for national direction, being the NPS:IB to be finalised, before these can be included in the RPS.

Given these points, Winstone Aggregates seeks a nuanced, evidence-based approach in PPC1. An approach that simultaneously considers the preservation of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems while recognising the vital role of the aggregate industry and the benefits of sustainable quarrying activities.

Despite acknowledging the Council's rebuttal responses as voiced by Ms. Jenkin and Ms. Zöllner, we maintain our stance that the current plan insufficiently addresses the potential impacts on the aggregate industry.

In conclusion, we urge for a comprehensive approach in Plan Change 1 that respects the economic, social, and environmental aspects of aggregate extraction, clean filling activities, and aggregate supply, understanding their critical roles in supporting housing supply and infrastructure development.

Thank you for your time this afternoon.