

**BEFORE THE WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of Submissions and Further Submissions lodged by Winstone Aggregates (a division of Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure Limited) to Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1.

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**STATEMENT OF PRIMARY EVIDENCE OF DAN MCGREGOR**

**FOR**

**WINSTONE AGGREGATES (A DIVISION OF FLETCHER CONCRETE & INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED)**

**Submitter ID 73992**

**15 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Part A: Overview and Context**

**Part B: Overall Direction, Values and Uses, Science and Economics, Objectives, Limits and Targets**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- A. Winstone Aggregates (a division of Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure Limited) (Winstone) operates three significant quarries in the Waikato region that take and use water and then discharge water containing contaminants (primarily sediment) to land and water.
- B. A sustained supply of aggregate is essential for the continued development of the Waikato region and to enable people and communities of the Waikato region to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing.
- C. Winstone is generally supportive of the direction and pace of change set out in Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 (PC1) to give effect to the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers.
- D. Winstone lodged submissions and further submissions on PC1 which have been given effect to in the recommendations of the officers in the S42A report. Winstone supports the changes recommended in the S42A report as they relate to its submissions and further submissions

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 My full name is Daniel John McGregor. I am the Senior Project and Resource Advisor at Winstone Aggregates (a division of Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure Limited) (Winstone)<sup>1</sup>. I have been employed in this position since July 2012.
- 1.2 I hold the qualifications of Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts from Auckland University. I am a Member of the Resource Management Law Association and the Aggregate and Quarrying Association of NZ.
- 1.3 I have over 15 years' experience in project management with a focus on resource management and public policy proposals.

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<sup>1</sup> When submissions on Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 were lodged, Winstone Aggregates was operating under the name GBC Winstone. Accordingly, the Winstone submission was lodged in the name of GBC Winstone. Winstone Aggregates is GBC Winstone's successor.

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## **2.0 SCOPE OF EVIDENCE**

2.1 In my evidence I provide:

- A description of Winstone;
- A description of our assets and operations in the Waikato region; and
- A brief outline of the key issues for Winstone in topics addressed in the Block 1 hearings on Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1.

## **3.0 WINSTONE AGGREGATES**

3.1 Winstone is a division of Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure Limited, a member of the Fletcher Building group of companies. Winstone is New Zealand's largest manufacturer and distributor of aggregates and sand to roading, ready mixed concrete, concrete product manufacturers, and to building and contracting customers.

3.2 The roots of the Winstone company go back to the earliest days of Auckland in 1864, when William Winstone started a transport business utilising a horse and cart. The business grew to include quarrying in the early part of last century. It was purchased by Fletcher interests in 1988 and placed under the control of the Winstone Aggregates Division.

3.3 In the Waikato region, Winstone also has a long history which dates back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and which over the following decades grew to be a major branch of the Winstone company. Winstone quarries in the Waikato region have also been significant contributors to the Waikato aggregate market over the years. Within the Waikato region, Winstone has operations at:

- Pukekawa Quarry (near Tuakau);
- Meremere Quarry; and
- Whitehall Quarry (near Karapiro).

3.4 Winstone employs over 430 staff across New Zealand.

## **4.0 WINSTONE'S OPERATIONS IN THE WAIKATO REGION**

4.1 Winstone owns and operates three quarries in the Waikato region. Each of these quarries require the use of natural and physical resources to operate. For each quarry Winstone holds resource consents to use land for quarrying purposes, take water, divert groundwater or dewater areas of the quarry, discharge contaminants to air and discharge stormwater and contaminants to land or water. In the following section of my evidence, I provide further details of each quarry and identify the specific discharges from the site that will be affected by PC1.

### **Pukekawa Quarry (near Tuakau)**

4.2 Pukekawa Quarry is located 5 kilometres north of Pukekawa on the south bank of the Waikato River. The site is historically known as Smeed Quarry and records indicate that quarry operations at the site date back to at least 1924. Winstone companies and their successor Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure Limited have owned the site since 1971 and have operated basalt rock extraction and crushing activities on the site over this duration. More recently sand extraction from the Waikato River have taken place at the site.

4.3 Pukekawa produces up to 100,000 tonnes of aggregate per year and 130,000 tonnes of sand and supplies these products into both the Waikato and Auckland markets.

4.4 The site has 23 consents between Waikato District Council and Waikato Regional Council and has two regional consents for discharge to water. These discharge consents were granted in 2001 and relate to discharge into the Waikato River and a local stream.

### **Meremere Quarry**

4.5 Meremere is located on Falls Road, approximately 8km east of Meremere township. Quarrying at the site has been ongoing since 1999 when the site was known as Baldwins Aggregates. Winstone acquired the site in 2017.

4.6 Meremere produces up to 130,000 tonnes of aggregate per year and supplies rock into both the Waikato and Auckland markets.

4.7 The site has 14 consents between Waikato District Council and Waikato Regional Council and has one regional consent for discharge to water. This discharge

consent was granted in 2008 and relates to discharge into an unnamed tributary of the Whangamarino Wetland.

### **Whitehall Quarry (near Karapiro)**

- 4.8 Whitehall is located on Whitehall Road approximately 4km to the north of Karapiro near Cambridge. Whitehall has been operating for more than 70 years. It was initially established to provide material for farming operations but was then expanded in the 1940s to provide aggregate resources for the construction of the Karapiro Hydro Dam on the Waikato River. In 1973 the plant and equipment were purchased by Whitehall Quarries Ltd. They were purchased by Firth Aggregates in March 1987 and in 1988 Winstone took over the management of the quarry.
- 4.9 Whitehall produces up to 500,000 tonnes of aggregate per year and is a major supplier of rock into the Waikato and Bay of Plenty markets.
- 4.10 The site has 17 consents between Waipa District Council and Waikato Regional Council and has one regional consent for discharge to water. This discharge consent was granted in 2003 and relates to discharge into Karapiro Stream.

## **5.0 ISSUES FOR WINSTONE**

- 5.1 Although aggregates are a commodity upon which everyone depends, the importance of aggregate resources to district and regional economies is not always fully appreciated. Quarried products are essential to roading, construction and other infrastructure. As an example, over 4,000 tonnes is required to construct 1 kilometre of state highway<sup>2</sup>. Aggregates are also extensively used in manufacturing, including ready-mixed and asphaltic concrete, pre-cast concrete beams and panels, masonry, pavers, pipes and other products.
- 5.2 A sustained supply of aggregate is therefore essential for the continued development of the Waikato region and to enable people and communities of the Waikato region to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing.
- 5.3 It is also necessary and important to recognise the need to have objectives and policies in relevant planning documents which facilitate aggregate extraction to

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Providing Solid Foundations for New Zealand; The Aggregate and Quarry Association of New Zealand; Undated.

enable those resources which exist, to be extracted and distributed to the areas in which they are required.

5.4 Winstone is generally supportive of the direction and pace of change set out in Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 to meet the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers. Achieving the outcomes sought will be challenging but Winstone considers that the 10-year and 80-year timeframe proposed provide sufficient time for us to adapt and find solutions to contribute to achieving the objectives of the plan.

5.5 In our submission, we suggested some changes to the provisions of the Plan Change to improve clarity and workability. In relation to the topics covered by the Block 1 hearings our key concerns are to ensure the provisions of PC1:

- give effect to, and are consistent with, the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.
- allow people and communities in the Waikato region to continue to provide for their economic and social wellbeing, while giving effect to the Vision and Strategy; and
- are clear, fair and workable for resource users.

5.6 Many of the issues of concern to Winstone have been addressed in the recommendations in the S42A report prepared by the officers and the proposed amendments made to the Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1.

5.7 In her evidence, Ms Dines sets out a planning analysis of Winstone's submissions and further submissions on Plan Change 1 and the s42A report.

**Dan McGregor**

Winstone Aggregates

15 February 2019