

Dianne Hill
President: Three Kings United Group Inc.
Ph (09)6236642 or (09) 6259664

**RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS MADE PURSUANT TO RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT ACT 1991 SECTION 88 FROM WINSTONE AGGREGATES
LIMITED – JOINT ARC/ACC HEARING OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009
Consent Numbers 36221 and 36222**

Submissions from Three Kings United Group Incorporated

1. My name is Dianne Hill – our home is located on the corner of Landscape Road and Mt Eden Road. The house has been in our family since 1963 – some 45 years. My husband and I have been self-employed in various businesses for the last 30 years. Currently I am semi-retired and am President of the Three Kings United Group. We are a group of local residents who have been a quarry “watch dog” for approximately 14 years. We all live in the area and have monitored much of the quarry activities in recent years. We accept that the quarry’s infant years began when the suburb was itself an infant and therefore we have to be mindful that we need to accommodate each other’s needs as far as possible. We are also mindful of the fact that Winstones are a commercial group engaged in earning maximum return for their shareholders. However, when a commercial company’s maximum return impinges on the safety, health, welfare and lifestyle of thousands of residents and hundreds of school children nearby, then it’s time to ask the city council to step in and say - “enough”!!
2. Auckland city has now grown up - the people have become more sophisticated, more demanding and, less tolerant. Auckland City residential property values have sky rocketed, including our surrounding suburbs of Three Kings, Mt Eden, Epsom, Mt Roskill, Royal Oak, and Onehunga, to name a few.
3. Along with sky rocketing values - comes the resident’s expectations of living in a valuable location. To have an ugly 15-hectare mine within our suburbs has become less and less acceptable to the local people. That we have endured the noise/dust/heavy traffic activity for decades has been a big enough burden for us to tolerate, but one that we have trained ourselves to live with. That the Council allowed Winstones to dewater under 10,000 of our homes with scant regard for the future possibility of subsidence, causing structural damage to walls, and buildings, in order for them to continue their earning capacity, is nothing short of scandalous. (You will hear the word scandalous a few more times in my address). Now they want to assault

us further by filling the quarry – another 7- 12, or even 20 – 30 years of further assaults on the residents, in order to prolong their dollar productive activity.

4. We oppose the re-filling of the quarry in its entirety. Not because we are against the idea of a beautiful green park linking the three disjointed pieces of park land we currently enjoy, BUT solely because the filling of it is a colossal undertaking with many unacceptable ramifications that we are not prepared to have to endure.

5. Our preference would be a passive park incorporating a lake surrounded by landscaped gardens, trees and grassy areas – tying the whole area together. An area the whole of Auckland could enjoy and be proud of after years of an ugly gaping dirty hole. Many other cities around the world have converted old quarries into beautiful gardens – example Butchart Gardens in Victoria BC Canada.

6. The City Council is very keen to fill Auckland with more homes, by allowing infill development. This very act alone surely demands and needs more park land and open spaces in order to prevent a tightly packed city which is against everything NZ is famous for. If this land is filled and developed into residential and commercial buildings, this opportunity will be lost forever. We believe the ARC and ACC should combine their resources and buy this land in its entirety – thus preserving this golden opportunity to expand the area into an amazing park.

7. We believe the ARC/ACC applications should be deferred until the new “Super City” has been elected as this is bound to introduce new plan changes and new standards.

8. We believe the notification to the people of Auckland, of this enormous project, has been under-advertised to the point of it being a scandalous fact on its own.

The residents we have discussed this project with have been shocked at the enormity of it. At first they have appeared to be pleased the quarry is finally coming to an end, but when we divulge some of the facts of what is involved in the filling, they are clearly appalled. Some have indicated they feel betrayed that they weren't “informed.” Our general response has been that the Council has displayed the resource application in the “City Scene” newspaper (which it seems half the people don't read because there are too many of them coming weekly) - has held a public forum in the Fickling Centre, has displayed some material in the local library (only a small percentage of people visit the library and then it's usually to

exchange books – not to read the display boards) - has been in consultation with groups like Three Kings United Group (we don't have the budget to advise the public at large), has advised the immediate residents surrounding the quarry (perhaps 100 or so – many of whom are tenants in state houses and may not have a deep feeling one way or another), and therefore they have carried out their obligation to alert the residents. The Councils were under no obligation to alert the residents immediately across the road from the quarry on Mt Eden Road (and who will feel the impact the greatest), nor were they obliged to contact Three Kings Primary School (another crucial player in these stakes), instead we believe they advised the Department of Education (and if this crucial information was ever passed on, it was well after the closing day for submissions). Their primary information came from our Three Kings United Group visiting the school and speaking with the Principal.

9. All these facts have been received by the local people with derision and anger, leaving them feeling completely let down, and frustrated by the Councils who have been elected to look after their interests. We believe the end-use should be identified and approved before any filling is introduced so that we all know what the final goal will be.

10. We believe Winstones are rushing this application through now so that they may capture the opportunity of getting the fill from the soon-to-be started State Highway 20 tunnel project, a joint excavation and fill activity that would suit the Council equally as well. We believe the numbers of vehicle movements on local streets (which was counted by an independent group), and presented as a statistic, in fact show that the impact of 750 additional vehicle movements per day will be almost negligible. Is one loaded articulated truck equal to one car or one motor bike in terms of vehicle numbers in this vehicle counting exercise? – because it shouldn't be!!

11. The truth is that at present Winstone transfers between 15 and 20 trucks per day and when that is increased to 750 per day - that statistic showing increased volume of heavy trucks (many articulated) is anything but negligible. We believe it is a way of using statistics that is misleading to the point it is almost scandalous in itself.

12. We believe the increased number of heavy trucks per day using local arterial roads will clog up the intersection of Mt Eden and Mt Albert Roads. This intersection is already very busy and accommodates the local primary school of Three Kings. Furthermore, the proposed new entranceway to the quarry, which is just north of Graham Breed Drive, is almost opposite the playing field of this school, where parents

drop off and pick up their children, possibly causing more parking mayhem and additional needless danger to children and parents.

13. It has been brought to our attention, and is of great concern to the Forest and Bird Society, that the rare and endangered skink makes the quarry its home, and having tons of fill material dumped onto the ground will surely end the residential skink population at Three Kings quarry. Tuis and other native birds are also trying to make the surrounding flora and fauna their home – noise, dust, dirt and heavy machinery will not enhance their chances of breeding in this location.

14. Conclusion

In our original submission, our group raised 15 points of concern. In total these concerns point to the need for a master plan being developed for the quarry site before any further resource consents are granted. The master plan process has in fact already started.

If new resource consents are granted then these become a permitted baseline which starts to shut down options under the proposed master plan.

We are aware that Winstones are obligated to reinstate/restore the land after quarrying ceases, but this should not be done at further cost to the community. The benefits to Winstones for the filling operation sought by the way of this resource consent is obvious, but the benefits to the community however, are not.

Overall, one of the important options possibly being denied, concerns the partial fill of the quarry. As will be stated by Mr Bell – the natural water level is 56 meters RSL. This will have serious complications for any filling and later use of the land.

Therefore, we strongly submit that this application be declined until the master plan has been established. This is only good planning. As it stands, the cart is being placed before the horse and in the end it will be the community that pays the price.

15. In the event of resource consents being approved:

- We believe the truck loads of fill material should be tightly controlled by Winstones. That all trucks entering the quarry should be covered, to eliminate any fill material being spilled or blown away during travel.

- We believe Winstones should not be allowed to avoid this control by claiming many of the trucks are “third party” and therefore out of their jurisdiction

- We believe that in the UK similar fill situations require the fill to be tested for toxins and suitability at the original point of pick

up, rather than at the depositing end, after trucks have been loaded and driven across town ready for dumping, thereby lessening the pressure on the receiving officer to pass the load as “safe” for fill.

- Winstones will be actively canvassing and seeking opportunities of potential fill for this project and, therefore in this case, an independent company should be hired to measure and check for toxins to further lessen the chance of slipping potentially hazardous material through the check.

- We are alarmed to read on page 41 and 42 that fill can contain dangerous toxins such as DDT etc and, as long as the top one meter is of inert material, ARC will be satisfied with the result. Does this not highlight our fears of filling the quarry with so called “clean fill”? Will we be left with a legacy of toxic land and contaminated streams flowing into our beautiful harbours of Manukau and Waitemata? Therefore this matter should be addressed with urgency prior to any consents even being considered.

As our future generations are trying to become cleaner and greener, will our grandchildren be saying to us *“How could the council have let this happen?” - and why didn't you try to stop it?”*

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Dianne Hill
2 November 2009