

Submission on the Resource Consent Application from Winstone Aggregates Limited in relation to land situated at Three Kings Quarry, 985 Mount Eden Road, Three Kings (Application No.: 377770)

To: General Manager
Regulatory Services
Auckland Regional Council
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Cc: Mr Richard Compton
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This is a joint submission by Watercare Services Limited and Metrowater on the proposed development of the Three Kings Quarry, 985 Mount Eden Road, Three Kings.
- 1.2 Watercare is responsible for providing bulk water and wastewater services to the Auckland Region. This includes supplying about 374,000 cubic metres of water daily to around 1.2 million people. The water is sourced from dams in the Hunua and Waitakere Ranges, the Waikato River and an underground source in Onehunga.
- 1.3 Metrowater is currently responsible for the provision of retail water supply and wastewater services in Auckland City. Metrowater owns and operates the water supply and wastewater network in Auckland City, providing services to over 165,000 homes and businesses.
- 1.4 On 1 November 2010 Watercare will become responsible for all water and wastewater services throughout the Auckland region, including the retail services currently provided by Metrowater.
- 1.5 Watercare and Metrowater wish to be heard in support of this submission.

2 Three Kings Water Treatment Plant

- 2.1 Metrowater owns a treatment plant located at the Three Kings Quarry (the land and the building where the plant is located are leased from Winstone). This plant was commissioned in 1998 but never put into service. The plant was constructed in response to concerns about water shortages following the 1994 drought, and was designed to use the bore water from the Three Kings Quarry. The capacity of the plant is 292m³/hour.

3 Concerns relating to the Proposed Development

- 3.1 Winstone is proposing to fill the Three Kings Quarry. Filling is expected to commence in 2010 and take approximately ten to twelve years to complete. On the 8th December 2010 the ARC granted Winstone Aggregates a resource consent to deposit cleanfill at the Three Kings Quarry, and the decision has been appealed to the Environment Court. The consent set limits for the level of chemicals contained within the cleanfill.
- 3.2 Winstone has submitted a new application for any type of fill (that is, not limited to cleanfill) subject to a set of limits for contaminants that would be permitted in the fill. These limits appear to be set at a level that would allow contaminated material, not just cleanfill, to be deposited on the site.
- 3.3 Watercare and Metrowater are concerned at the potential for contamination of this water supply source, and the effect that this would have on the potential for its use as drinking water at a future point in time. Should the groundwater become contaminated through the introduction of unacceptable material or an accumulation of contaminants overtime, the groundwater would become unusable for drinking water purposes. Given the critical importance of ensuring adequate drinking water supply to Auckland's growing population, it is vital that all possible sources of drinking water be preserved to the greatest extent possible.
- 3.4 If the limits for the filling are now set at the high values as per the consent granted on 8th December and the filling is not restricted to cleanfilling (such as is defined in the Proposed ARC Regional Plan: Air Land and Water), then there is significant potential that the quality of the ground water will be compromised for potable use. It is noted that the Assessment of Environmental Effects was based on contaminant levels associated with cleanfill, and not other fill, nor was it based on contaminant levels up to the levels proposed in the new application.

4.0 Water and Metrowater seek the following outcomes:

- The consent be declined, or if granted be limited to cleanfill as defined in the Proposed Air Land and Water Plan.

The definition of cleanfill as defined in Chapter 12 of the Proposed Regional Plan Air, Land and Water is:

“Cleanfill material means material that when buried will have no adverse effect on people or the environment, and includes virgin materials such as clay, soil and rock, and other inert materials such as concrete or brick that are free of:

- Combustible, putrescible, degradable or leachable components
- Hazardous substances
- Products or materials derived from hazardous waste treatment, hazardous waste

stabilisation or hazardous waste disposal practices
- Materials that may present a risk to human health
- Liquid waste”

- The adoption of robust procedures to ensure that contamination does not occur and that the limits for contaminants are reduced to an appropriate level to minimise the risk from contamination to similar levels as in volcanic soils as defined in ARC TP 153.

Signed on behalf of Watercare Services by



Alastair Shanks
Environmental Management Planner
4 May 2010

Signed on behalf of Metrowater by:



Ilze Gotelli
Senior Environmental Planner
4 May 2010

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