

Willowbank Quarry – Community Liaison Group Meeting

17 March 2025 – 10.00am

Willowbank Quarry

MINUTES

Opening Karakia

Present: Paul Nation, Shane Hagai, John Spence, Mark Turner, Koa Martel, Diane Strugnell, Ruan VanDeventer, Katie Christison, Daren Courtnage

Apologies: Sharli Jo (online), Jordan Coetzee

Previous Action Points: None

Update on Work Completed and Proposed at Quarry Since Last Meeting:

- As presented by Fulton Hogan.

Complaints

- One complaint received regarding early truck movements into the site – resolved.

Planned Activities for the Next 3 Months:

- As presented by Fulton Hogan.
- Daren and Shane indicated that all necessary consents have been completed, and the quarry is now operational.

Trial and Quarry Blasting:

Over the next 2 months the blasting monitoring plinth will be concreted into place. This is located at Manuka corner and will allow monitoring to be completed as per consent requirements.

Following on from the Monitoring plinth, trial blasting will be required as per consent conditions, but only once suitable (hard) rock is unearthed.

Once the trial blasts have been completed and the results assessed to prove blasting designs sit within our design parameters, production blasting will be undertaken.

Currently, no suitable rock has been unearthed for the trials, as such, a time factor cannot be used.

Drivers for suitable trial/production blasting are:

- Stripping of overburden (seasonally driven)
- Sales volumes of soft rock (market driven)

Notice will be given to the CLG once we know Trial blasting rock has been made available.

General Business

Open Day

- There was general agreement that an open day during the summer months would be beneficial. A tentative date of mid to late November was discussed, which could be confirmed at the next CLG meeting proposed for September.

Emergency Communications – Diane Strugnell

- The Pāuatahanui Residents Association is collaborating with the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) to enhance disaster preparedness for this community.

- In Wellington, it is essential to be prepared to be self-sufficient for seven days in the event of a disaster. Effective communication is particularly crucial for rural communities.
- WREMO is preparing for a scenario where conventional communication methods may not be operational, relying solely on VHF radios.
- VHF radios will be installed at the emergency hub located at Pāuatahanui School. PRA is coordinating with community members to identify additional sites capable of communicating with the hub.
- *Given the quarry's location and elevation, PRA is interested in involving quarry management in future discussions to determine if they can play a role in disaster or regional emergency situations.*

The meeting concluded at 10:35 am.

Next Meeting Date: To be confirmed – September 2025