

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE

For Acacia Park Landowners Association Inc

Re Plan Change 102 - GBC Winstone submission #250 to extend the MEA area to include all of the Pegram block

My name is Sue McQuade. I am Treasurer for Acacia Park Landowners Association and am speaking on behalf of a majority of the community within Acacia Park. There are **53** lots in Acacia Park; 7 lots are not yet built on but no doubt will be in the future.

Our focus is on Plan Change 102, regarding GBC Winstone's application for an extension of the active Mineral Extraction Area which will enable their overburden to be placed on the entire area of farmland known as the Pegram Block. This farmland is adjacent to the southern boundary of Acacia Park.

In late 2006 the Pegram block was purchased by Winstones. The purchase was followed in 2008 by Winstones application for a Private Plan Change to enable them to extend the Mineral Extraction Area to include the Pegram Block. The rezoning required was declined at that time.

Now, here we are again 9 years later, dealing with a similar issue. Winstones, in their submission, on the recent proposed Plan Change 102 asked for the Pegram block to be rezoned as a Mineral Extraction Area – it now appears that they have chosen not to present evidence on this, but neither have they withdrawn the submission. GBC Winstone has already lodged a Resource Consent application with Whangarei District Council in regard to this overburden disposal under the current operative plan.

I would like to make it very clear at this point, that the Acacia Park residents are not against the current quarry operation; they are aware that the quarry plays a significant part in the Northland economy; they just do not want quarry operations almost literally on their door steps.

Acacia Park was already established before GBC Winstone purchased the block in 2006.

Therefore, we oppose the submission #250 by GBC Winstone on the basis that an extension of this magnitude to the MEA will compromise living conditions currently afforded to Acacia Park residents and many residents in Smeatons Drive & other surrounding areas.

We are asking the Commissioners to give consideration to the human condition. The economy serves the people and should reflect the aspirations of the people. All too often that fact is overlooked. When big business comes into conflict with citizens, the citizen is too often sacrificed to business demands for profit. The result is a bigger pay out to a few shareholders, and many very unhappy families; and, in some cases owing to pollution, unhealthy families.

The people who purchased land in Acacia Park were aware that the quarry was operating in fairly close proximity, but understood, under the Operative District Plan, that the farmland known as the Pegram block would remain as a green belt; a buffer zone. It was never anticipated that the MEA would be allowed extend virtually into their back yards, effectively making parts of Acacia Park the buffer zone.

In 1995 a 500m buffer zone between residential dwellings and the quarry was requested by Winstones via their legal representatives. This is indicated in a 1995 letter from Russell McVeagh to Council. This buffer area was created between the quarry and 52 Acacia Drive, setting a precedent for a buffer zone between the quarry boundary and all other Acacia Park dwellings. (Attachment 2- copy of the 1995 Russell McVeagh letter)

In the Operative District Plan the protection of the Pegram block was designed to preserve quality of life for nearby residents, as well as addressing the reverse sensitivity issue by protecting the quarry from adverse effects by dwellings being too close to their operations- **if this buffer zone was needed when the Acacia Park subdivision was proposed in 1995, over 20 years ago, why is it not needed now?**

A number of recent owners purchased in Acacia Park only weeks before the possible Plan Change 102 effects became known and were suddenly faced with the proposition of quarry operations in very close proximity to their property. They had absolutely no indication that the application for the MEA was in the pipeline. It can only be presumed that due diligence or LIM reports done prior to purchase did not show anything significant or they possibly would not have purchased here.

Acacia Park residents were not aware of this proposal for placement of overburden on the Pegram block. This only became known when representatives from GBC Winstone requested to be allowed to speak at the end of our Annual General Meeting in May 2016. Since then they have been busy approaching, on an individual basis, a number property owners whom *GBC Winstone* consider to be most affected.

Mr Wallace, representing GBC Winstone, states in his evidence that there is confusion amongst submitters as to what is being sought and submitted by GBC Winstone in PC 102 due to the Resource Consent application being lodged at the same time as the Plan Change Hearings. Indeed it was confusing and difficult to keep within the scope of the Plan Change submission.

In conclusion, we are requesting that the Pegram block retains status quo.

This is a part of the Southern gateway into Whangarei and allowing this submission to extend the MEA over the Pegram block would be a big blot on the landscape, totally at odds with the Council's Vision Statement *"To be a vibrant, attractive and thriving District by developing lifestyles based around our unique environment; the envy of New Zealand and recognised world wide."*

S.R.McQuade