



Advertisement

KNOW THE VALUE OF YOUR EQUIPMENT

[Get Valuation](#)

Marc - 021 452 221
Stewart - 021 330 146

EME
valuations

Recent comments

MinEx says no silicosis risk for residents (2)

Thanks Murray. The press release has gone too general media so hopefully some will pick it up.
Wayne Scott

MinEx says no silicosis risk for residents (2)

This is a great article, but nothing that we didn't already know. Pleased that Wayne has met with Dr Humphrey as it is...
Murray Francis

Plan needed for aggregate supply to Christchurch (1)

Rail it over from Westport, plenty in the Buller river, right next railway. Good for flood protection as well, two...
Neal Clementson

Call to save lives from RCS exposure - MinEx (1)

It is interesting that operators focus on health checks rather than exposure monitoring. By the time health monitoring...
Kerry Cheung

Young accuses PM of mining policy misinformation (1)

Jonathan Young has hit the nail on the head. The

MinEx says no silicosis risk for residents

Cameron Massey - Fri, 26 Jan 2018

MinEx has dismissed the fears of people living near quarries being exposed to dust that can cause the dangerous lung disease silicosis.

CEO Wayne Scott says testing to date near Canterbury quarries, which have been at the centre of silicosis claims, have shown no evidence that the active cause of silicosis – Respirable Crystalline Silica – is present at levels that would cause any harm.

"We've seen a toxicology professor being at pains to emphasise the low chances of developing silicosis from quarry dust and medical authorities saying testing to date at those Canterbury quarries at the centre of dust concerns shows no RCS level which is remotely likely to cause silicosis," Scott says.

MinEx is currently working with WorkSafe to continue reducing any risk to quarry workers.

Some people are talking up RCS risks while authorities are trying to calm any fears about RCS exposure, Scott says.

New Zealand's limit on RCS is 0.1mg per cubic metre over a standard eight hour working day.

"Any risk of RCS exposure is to quarry workers, not neighbours who most often are hundreds of metres from a quarry face with a huge amount of air space between them."

Scott met with Environment Canterbury and the Canterbury chief medical officer Alistair Humphrey yesterday to discuss silicosis risk from quarries.

Eliminating fallacies

Scott adds that the emerging myths suggesting quarry dust is laden with RCS need to be dispelled.

"Another round of monitoring is being undertaken by ECan at some Canterbury quarries which by mid-year, I expect to confirm that RCS is virtually undetectable and no serious health risks arise.

"Meantime, while acknowledging many quarries have good dust management in place, some quarries have to continue to lift their game because any dust that emerges from a quarry – as from any farming or earthmoving operation – is annoying to close neighbours."

The Aggregate and Quarry Association represents about 85 per cent of New Zealand's production of the crushed rock, stone and limestone.

Large part to play

AQA chair Brian Roche says most of his members are actively managing dust through practices such as watering quarry roads and stockpiles, and washing the wheels and bodies of departing trucks.

"All quarries have to meet dust limits set by councils as part of a resource consent. Most modern quarrying operations also minimise noise and traffic movements, working in with neighbours and councils.

"Most of our members work to meet those requirements while operating a lot of heavy machinery. What we'd like communities, councils and Government to acknowledge is that quarries provide the foundation material for every New Zealand home, road and building."

Longer haulage equals extra cost

Roche says too often the industry faces residents who want these benefits but believe quarry materials should come from locations remote from where it is needed.

"That comes at a huge cost as DoC has just **acknowledged** in its application this month to quarry rock on DoC conservation land for use on nearby Franz Josef walking track."

DoC said: "the next nearest spot with an adequate supply of suitable rock would be the quarry near Whataroa. This would increase the price by a minimum of four times."

Roche says if quarries cannot continue to operate close to where the aggregate they provide is needed for every road, track and building – with appropriate controls in place – then New Zealand's economic momentum will be compromised.

Rate this article:

No votes yet

Topics: [aggregate](#) [aggregates](#) [quarry](#) [quarrying](#) [dust](#) [respirable crystalline silica](#)

Organisation: [MinEx](#) [Environment Canterbury](#) [AQA](#)

[Printer-friendly version](#)

Murray



Search

Featured content

Autonomous vehicles inevitable in mines and quarries

Cameron Massey

Leading quarry and mining equipment dealers believe it is only a matter of time until autonomous vehicles are operating widely in the industry.



Mimico general manager Chris Gray says at this stage the technology may be better suited to the civil construction sector, but he says the technology could be transferred to the mining industry soon.

[Read more](#)

Plan needed for aggregate supply to Christchurch

Bernie Napp

The Harewood Gravel High Court appeal highlights growing pressure on aggregate supply to Greater Christchurch.



If the High Court agrees with the Environment Court on this appeal by the Road Metals-Isaac Construction joint venture, the availability of resource would reduce, even in quarry zones.

[Read more](#)

[More articles](#)

Advertisement

TOTAL RUBIA

Advertisement

New Zealand
Minerals Forum 2018
Understanding our Advantage

NEW ZEALAND'S PREMIER MINERALS EVENT

MAY 29-30
RYDGES HOTEL, QUEENSTOWN

Advertisement

government is being swayed by misinformation generated by extremists...
Practical Pete

[more](#)

Interviews

EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW 3: Mick Wilkes - chief executive officer, OceanaGold

Matt Freeman



New Zealand's largest gold miner has completed a very successful 2017.

- **EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW: Peter Silcock - chief executive, Civil Contractors NZ**
- **EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW: Hon Judith Collins – Minister of Energy and Resources**
- **EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW 2: Richard Tacon – chief executive officer, Bathurst Resources**
- **EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW: Robert Jones – Chief Executive Officer, Fulton Hogan NZ**
- **EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW: Michael Meehan - West Coast Regional Council**

Francis

Fri, 26 Jan 2018

MinEx says no silicosis risk to residents

This is a great article, but nothing that we didn't already know. Pleased that Wayne has met with Dr Humphrey as it is Dr Humphrey that has raised the fears of the residents. you are doing a great job Wayne, so thank you. this article should be given to the local media for printing as Inside Resources, a great read, doesn't get to the public. Please try and get this story to the local media.

reply like dislike (3 likes, 0 dislikes)

Wayne Scott

Fri, 26 Jan 2018

Thanks Murray. The press

Thanks Murray. The press release has gone too general media so hopefully some will pick it up.

reply like dislike (0 likes, 0 dislikes)

Related content

- [Industry urges stronger CoC requirements](#)
- [MinEx push for more manager training](#)
- [Plan needed for aggregate supply to Christchurch](#)
- [Newshub kills quarry dust lung cancer story](#)
- [Call to close non-complying quarries on health and safety](#)



IOQ NZ Youth Programme
Supporting our Industry's Future Leaders.

Energy Resource Factfile

Waihi

Gold mine - hard rock



Location Waihi

[View full listing](#)

[View all resources](#)

Organisation Factfile

Waikato Aggregates



Ownership Major shareholders: Christine Erkkila, John Erkkila, Paul Barris 28.4%, Richardson Trustee 28.4%

Description Quarry owner

Operating resources Titoki

Non-operating resources MMP 60326

[View full listing](#)

[View all organisations](#)

Popular

Recent Today Top rated

- [Yaldhurst dust monitoring shows safe level exceeded](#)
- [Sage blocks Bathurst from buying Sullivan land](#)
- [Ngati Waewae picks up Sullivan land](#)
- [Call to close non-complying quarries on health and safety](#)
- [Plan needed for aggregate supply to Christchurch](#)
- [NEW POLL: Suitors for Stevenson Construction Materials](#)
- [Govt ignores own mining policy - Young](#)
- [DoC to quarry conservation land](#)

[more](#)

Organisation cloud

Bathurst Resources Chatham Rock Phosphate Environmental Protection Authority Fletcher Building Fulton Hogan Government MinEx New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals NZTA OceanaGold Solid Energy WorkSafe

[More](#)

Keyword cloud

aggregates coal consents construction contracting environment exploration financials gold health and safety infrastructure iron ore

minerals **mining** permits **quarrying**
regulation **Roading** seabed mining West Coast
[More](#)