



## Big new quarry proposal near Christchurch reworked

Proposals for a major new quarry south-west of Christchurch at Burnham, to be operated by Winstone Aggregates, have seen amended conditions.

A 362 hectare property had been purchased in 2021 with a view to develop a quarry alongside the existing farming operation.

The proposed site is just north of Burnham Military Camp and is about 18 kilometres from the outskirts of Christchurch. It is bordered by Grange Road and Aylesbury Road, the latter joining State Highway 1 to the south. It would likely be one of the largest quarries in the region.

Winstone Aggregates Senior Project and Resource Advisor, Dan McGregor, says the area is estimated to contain around 30 million bank cubic metres of aggregate, equating to about 60 years' supply based on projected demand.

"While the property itself is large, less than 30 hectares of land will be used for quarrying at any point in time," he says.

"The bulk of the site will continue to be farmed, and Winstone Aggregates will progressively rehabilitate the site as quarrying progresses, with land returned to productive farming."

Quarrying, processing and stockpiling would be located far from neighbours.

The consent application was notified by the Environment Canterbury (ECan) and Selwyn District Council earlier in 2024 with 23 submissions received.

The application was heard before commissioners John Isefi, Graham Taylor and Craig Welsh in early September. During the hearing, Winstone Aggregates made a number of amendments to the application in response to concerns from submitters including:

- Reducing the maximum daily truck movements from 750 to 400, with an allowance to extend that to 550 movements up to 15 days a year.
- Reducing the proposed maximum open area from 40 hectares to 27 hectares.
- Closing the quarry at 1pm on Saturdays rather than the originally proposed 7pm.
- Removing the ability for the quarry to operate on Sundays.

Both the NZTA and KiwiRail advised they were comfortable with the proposal subject to certain conditions being met, including an update of a level-crossing safety assessment of the railway crossing south of the site.

The hearing was adjourned until 25 October to allow for experts to consult on draft conditions; for all parties to comment on the amended conditions; for the level-crossing safety assessment to be completed; and to assess whether a newly consented quarry operation at 658 Wards Road changed the traffic assessments in terms of cumulative effects. **AQA**