

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE – DOMINIC SUTTON

- 1 I am the Head of Operations and Sales (Southern Region) for Firth Industries which is a division of Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure Limited. I also hold Directorships in 3 other joint venture companies on behalf of Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure including Cromwell Certified Concrete Limited and a quarrying business in Oamaru.
- 2 Amisfield Quarry was established in 1994, primarily to serve the concrete market. When the quarry was first established, it was estimated to contain 50 years of resource. However demand for aggregates has been much stronger than was first anticipated. Deepening of the existing quarry and its expansion onto adjoining land is now proposed. An 8 ha block of land adjoining the quarry was purchased by the Company for this purpose in 2017.
- 3 The type of aggregate required to make concrete is only found in the Pisa area in the context of the Upper Clutha valley, and is relatively rare elsewhere in the Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes districts where there is an abundance of schist material. Schist material is totally unsuitable for use as any form of aggregate because it is too soft.
- 4 Overall, approximately 50% of the aggregates produced at Amisfield Quarry are concrete aggregates which are used to make concrete at the Company's concrete plant in Cromwell or at Firth plants in Wanaka and Queenstown for building and infrastructure projects. These plants supply half all concrete used in Cromwell, Queenstown and Wanaka and there is currently only one other concrete supplier in Inland Otago the other 50% of the quarry's current output are non-concrete aggregates and sands which are typically used in for roading, in the construction process for stable pavements, and as fill material for retaining walls and trench fills.
- 5 There is strong ongoing demand for aggregate in the Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes districts (Inland Otago) for large volumes of aggregate for new building, construction and roading projects, but also for the maintenance and upgrade of existing infrastructure.
- 6 There are currently five other aggregate quarries operating in Inland Otago. The nature of the products produced at these other quarries depends on the type of aggregate found on that land and customer requirements. The only other quarries currently producing concrete aggregates are at Parkburn. One of those (Fulton Hogan) has begun consultation on a plan change.
- 7 If consents for expansion of Amisfield Quarry are not granted, CCCL and Firth would need to try to source an alternative supply of concrete aggregates. However, I doubt that a single existing provider could meet this demand. Our existing and potential future non-concrete aggregate customers would also have to source products from other existing quarries (depleting those resources more quickly) or from further afield (assuming that new sources are available).
- 8 There are a range of reasons why we ultimately chose to expand the existing quarry in this location, rather than to develop a new quarry elsewhere, as I describe in my evidence.
- 9 With the significant experience gained over the time a quarry has operated on this site, the manner in which we operate our business and the consent conditions proposed, I am confident that the effects of this proposal will be mitigated appropriately and that we will exercise the consents (if granted) in a careful and responsible manner.

15 December 2021

Dominic Sutton

