

# Submission on Variation 1 the Proposed Change 1 Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region

## INTRODUCTION

Winstone Aggregates (a division of Fletcher Concrete and Infrastructure) is the leading provider of aggregate products and services in New Zealand. We operate eleven extractive quarries, two joint venture quarries, four managed fills/clean fills, six laboratories, and a transportation fleet. In the Wellington Region, our largest operations are Belmont Quarry and Otaki Quarry, with smaller operations in Petone, Dry Creek, Kapiti, and Waikanae.

Aggregates are widely recognized as regionally significant resources in regional policy statements across New Zealand. Unfortunately, in many cases, this significance is diminished and diluted in regional and district plans, placing the quarrying industry in a constant battle during the consenting process.

The aggregates sector requires support from local government to establish a legislative environment that enables us to provide quarry materials for affordable housing and infrastructure, both now and in the future. To achieve this, it is crucial that the regional policy statement acknowledges the importance of aggregates to Greater Wellington's economy, streamlines the consenting process, and protects quarry resources from sterilization and reverse sensitivity effects.

Winstone is particularly interested in the proposed changes to the Wellington Regional Policy Statement and that they recognise the importance of locally sourced aggregate supply, including Winstone's Belmont Quarry, which is now the primary source of aggregate for the western Wellington region. Aggregates play a critical role in the creation of new housing, businesses, roads, cycleways, and three waters infrastructure. Without a strong recognition of Region's Significant Mineral Resources at an RPS level and clear regional direction in the RPS on how to enable and allow for the continued development and use of significant quarries in the region, obtaining new consents for aggregate extraction will become impossible.

Winstone provided a submission to Proposed Change 1 ("PC1") to the Wellington Regional Policy Statement ("RPS") and has actively participated in the various hearing streams in support of their submission. Variation 1 to PC1 introduces two additional objectives that are understood to sit within Chapter 3.4: Freshwater of the RPS. These objectives outline long-term visions for Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Te Awarua-o-Porirua, which is understood to give effect to Clause 3.3 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

## SUBMISSION

Winstone are neutral to Variation 1.

Winstone support the identification of the long-term visions for Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Te Awarua-o-Porirua, noting that their Belmont Quarry is located with the Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua. Winstone particularly support the clause (7) of Objective TWT that states:

“By the year 2100 a state of wai ora is achieved for Te Whanganui-a-Tara in which the harbour, rivers, lakes, wetlands, groundwater, estuaries and coast are healthy, accessible, sustainable for future generations, and:

...

7. The use of water and waterways provide for social and economic use benefits, provided that such use does not compromise the health and well-being of waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems or the take and use of water for human health needs.”

Recognising the beneficial use of water and waterways is fundamental to ensuring the long-term prosperity of Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Relevant to Winstone, this recognition extends to quarrying activities as one of those beneficial activities. The ongoing ability for the Wellington Region to access locally sourced aggregate, including Belmont Quarry, will be essential for their long-term future. Aggregate plays a vital role in the creation of new housing, businesses, roads, cycleways, and three waters infrastructure. Additionally, the Wellington Region is projected to grow by 200,000 people by the year 2050 and will require an additional 99,000 homes<sup>1</sup>. There are also various transport infrastructure projects that will occur over the short- to medium-term, including<sup>2</sup>:

- Let’s Get Wellington Moving,
- Rail improvements,
- Otaki to North Levin,
- Cycleways and shared paths,
- State Highway 55 improvements, and
- The West-East Connection.

Winstone does however raise concern over the apparent lack of engagement undertaken for identifying these long-term visions. Clause 3.3(3) of the NPS-FM outlines the process that must be undertaken when identifying long-term visions and states (emphasis added):

“(3) Every long-term vision must:

- (a) be developed through engagement with communities and tangata whenua about their long-term wishes for the water bodies and freshwater ecosystems in the region; and
- (b) be informed by an understanding of the history of, and environmental pressures on, the FMU, part of the FMU, or catchment; and
- (c) express what communities and tangata whenua want the FMU, part of the FMU, or catchment to be like in the future.”

While the Section 32 Evaluation states that the visions have been based on statements provided in the Whaitua Implementation Plan for each Whaitua<sup>3</sup>, there has been limited engagement with communities and tangata whenua on the visions themselves<sup>4</sup>. Most notably, Taranaki Whānui, being one of the two mana whenua over the Whaitua which the visions apply to, were unable to meaningfully engage in providing feedback due to the time constraints<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the [Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment: Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua 2023](#)

<sup>2</sup> Based on the [Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan 2021](#)

<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 50 of the Section 32 Evaluation.

<sup>4</sup> Extent of engagement outlined in Paragraph 47 of the Section 32 Evaluation.

<sup>5</sup> As indicated in Paragraph 60 of the Section 32 Evaluation.

Relief sought: The following relief is sought by Winstone:

- To retain recognition of the beneficial use of water and waterways in the long-term vision for Te Whanganui-a-Tara.
- Further consideration is given to whether Clause 3.3(3) of the NPS-FM has been met.

Winstone do wish to be heard in support of their submission.