



Gravel Take

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From the Main Channel

We are now into the second month of governance by the Commissioners. In general the collaboration that is developing between the gravel industry and Environment Canterbury is well regarded. If any changes are proposed in the future that directly affect the industry then staff will recommend discussion via the forums we have established before proposed changes are finalized and implemented.

Re-fueling in riverbeds. The lack of care of a few has resulted in quite stringent conditions related to re-fueling in the riverbeds being imposed on new consents.

South Canterbury Agreement. In discussions with Gary Rooney it was decided a meeting in April/May 2010 was not required and that the next meeting would be in November. In the interim if you have any issues contact Gary, George Kelcher or myself.

LINZ. Representatives from Land Information NZ have raised the issue of riverbed ownership and the need for consent holders to gain landowner approval to access the site and extract gravel. There are many issues for them to work through in formulating any policy with regards this matter. I have extended an invitation for a representative from LINZ to attend the next Liaison Committee meeting to outline the matter.

As always, if there is anything relating to gravel that I can assist with or include in the newsletter please contact me.

Rolling Stones from across the Tasman

New 'super profit' mining tax to slug local quarries.

The 2010 budget presented to the Australian Parliament by Kevin Rudd's government contained a Resource Super Profits Tax (RSPT) to be applied to Australia's non-renewable resources from 1 July 2012.

Supporting information demonstrated that royalties paid had not kept pace with the value of the resource and that many multi-national companies mining in Australia are taking handsome profits off shore.

The RSPT will be payable at a rate of 40% on the realised value of all resource deposits excepting projects within the scope of the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax. Basically the tax targets any profit that is more than 6% or about the return one could make from a term deposit at a bank.

One oversight is that this tax will be levied on regional quarries producing sand, gravel, cement, sandstone and limestone, not just the export mining sector. It could have far reaching effects as costs are passed on to the end consumer. Farmers will be effected with increased costs of fertiliser such as lime, gypsum and superphosphate produced from local quarries. The cost of roading and housing will increase.

Treasurer Wayne Swan has hinted at a possible backdown on applying the tax to quarries after earlier being adamant that there would be no exceptions.

Boulder

variant of Middle English. **bulder** (c.1300),

from a Scandanavian source, akin to Swedish dialect.

bullersten

"noisy stone" (large stone in a stream, causing water to roar around it), from **bullra** "to roar" + **sten** "stone."

Gravel Liaison Committee

The committee met on Thursday 8 April at 1.00pm.

Minutes of the previous meeting, Matters arising:

Non-attendance; concern raised that representatives from several parties have not attended any meetings. These parties are to be approached to discuss their participation as without full representation many important matters can not be progressed.

Review of the 2009-10 year, Preview of the 2010-11 Year and 5 Year Forward Programme.

REVENUE	2009-10 Budgeted	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budgeted
	\$500,519.00	467,849.00	\$479,849.00
General Rates	\$233,849.00	\$233,849.00	\$233,849.00
Gravel Charge	\$266,670.00	\$234,000.00	\$246,000.00
WORK PROGRAMME	2009-10 Programmed	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Programmed
	\$500,519.00	\$467,849.00	\$479,849.00
Gravel Resource Management	\$54,000.00	\$54,000.00	\$53,000.00
Advice and Auditing Gravel Applications	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$31,500.00
Surveys	\$247,750.00	\$216,876.00	\$226,250.00
Lidar Surveys	\$50,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$70,000.00
Reports and Investigations	\$99,670.00	\$127,874.00	\$85,000.00
Plant, vehicles	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Misc	\$13,099.00	\$13,099.00	\$13,099.00

Notes:

Surveying, Kowhai (Kaikoura) \$51,800.00 and Rakaia Lidar \$50,000.00 held over until 2010/11. Orari survey 2006 processing and audit \$8,700.00 and Rangitata Lidar \$20,000.00 added to and completed 2009/10.

Reporting, Selwyn report advanced to determine availability for Christchurch Southern Motorway project inquiries.

General Business:

- Funding and Level of Service, figures presented indicate that to maintain current level of service \$0.12/consented m3 is required. Forward programme to be scrutinized, hydrographs to be studied to assist in determining likelihood of gravel movement etc since last survey, extractors to be surveyed to assist in determining priority rivers/sites and possible future demand.
- Waimakariri River, Ross Vesey explained the action being taken to resolve the issue of extraction under Section 124 of the RMA whilst awaiting a decision on an application to renew a consent.
- Consent Conditions, George Kelcher questioned the ever growing list of 'standard' conditions. The cost of complying with some of these is becoming quite prohibitive. A working session of all parties is to be organized to align outcomes/conditions and compliance/enforcement with a view to conditions being rationalized and tailored to each application.
- Guidance Notes for Aggregate and Quarry Industry, document released at MfE function at the Beehive on 31 March. The notes are to assist planners to write rules for quarrying and applicants to consider possible adverse effects and mitigation. The notes include numerous links to other documents and so are only available electronically at: www.qualityplanning.org.nz/plan-topics/aggregate-quarry-industry.php.
- Selwyn River, permitted extraction under consent held by River Engineering Section on behalf of River Rating District. Indicative permit costs/fees etc.
- Vote of Thanks extended by George Kelcher to Cr. Jane Demeter acknowledging her input and interest and wishing her well for the future.

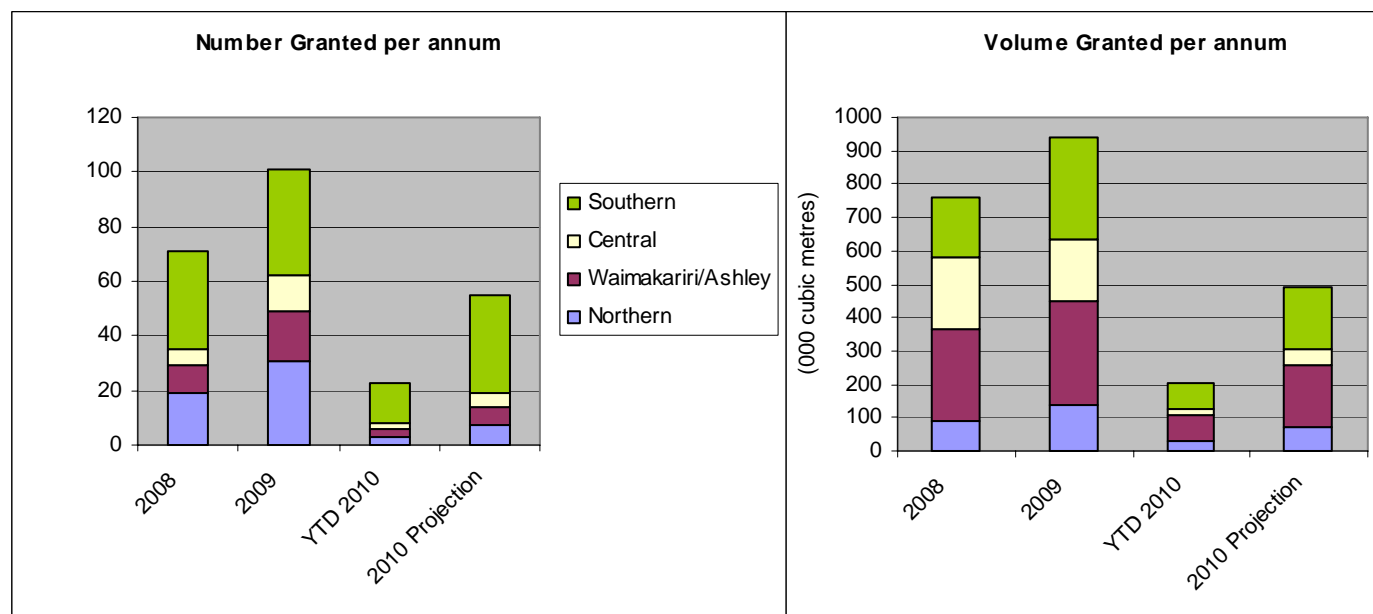
“SMALL GRAVEL” Photo Credit: Leigh Skerten from Environment Canterbury's Christchurch office might have been visiting France on the great OE but for some of the time her mind was still on the job !!



Gravel Demand

Annual Summary	Number of Consents subject to gravel charge	Total Consented Annual Volume	Total Returns	% Extracted v Consented
2008	210	2,904,600	1,409,600	49%
2009	219	3,062,600	974,800	32%
Year Ending 1-05-2010	225	2,889,900	1,188,000	41%
By Management Area as at 1-05-2010			Total Returns (12 months to 1-05-2010)	
Northern	61	450,600	123,000	27%
Waimakariri/Ashley	57	1,535,000	660,900	43%
Central	43	502,600	133,800	27%
Southern	64	401,700	270,300	67%
10 Consents granted but still within appeal period for an annual volume of 321,400 m ³				
22 Applications in process for an annual volume of 504,650 m ³				

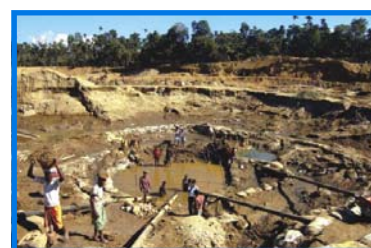
Consent Applications and Renewals



Did You Know?

Approximately 10,000 people including 2,500 women and 1,000 child labourers are engaged in stone and sand collection from the Piyain River in Jaflong, Bangladesh. The river has its headwaters in the Himalayas, flows through India and crosses into northeast Bangladesh. Every monsoon season it carries millions of tonnes of gravel downstream.

This gravel has traditionally been gathered by locals. Each day more than 100 small "burki" boats ply the river hand dredging the channel. Others excavate pits by hand. The gravel is crushed and screened by hand, transported by burki and on-sold to the larger companies. Labourers make 150/ 200 Taka (\$2.00/\$2.90) per day. With a crew of two the owner of a burki can fill two or three boatloads a day. Each boatload is approximately 13.5 cubic feet (0.4 m³) and earns Tk500 (\$7.25) per load. After expenses he can clear Tk10,000 (\$145) per month which by local standards is good.



The introduction of heavy machinery has taken quarrying to a new level. Over 100 companies and 200 crushing plants have invaded the river flats. Crushed stone is produced for Tk55 per cubic foot (\$27/m³), Tk20 is added for transportation and the product sells for Tk90/ft³ (\$44.50/m³) in the capital Dhaka. Netting a healthy profit in their terms of \$7.70/m³ it is small wonder the 'stone rush' has reached record proportions.

There is scant regard for the environment. Dust dunes choke the land and vegetation, destroying forests and agricultural lands. Respiratory tract illnesses affect many of the workers. Noise pollution disturbs the peace. The natural flow of the river has been altered with the once crystal clear waters now turning a muddy brown. The effects are felt 25kms downstream at Darbast. Ten years ago local fishermen could make three trips a day to market with their catch. Now they struggle to feed their own families.



Environmental Calendar

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mudfish								
Brown Trout								
R/bow Trout								
Inanga								
Salmon								
Eels								
Brook Trout								
Galaxids								
Lamprey 3-4 yrs								
Lamprey Juveniles								
Birds								

River Resident
Upstream Migration
Spawning
Downstream Migration
Birds Wintering Over
Birds Nesting/Rearing
At Sea

DISCLAIMER: This calendar is a summary of activity likely to be taking place and is included as a guide only.