

Application:

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Date: 5 April 2018**Memo**

Date	05.04.2018
To	Hearing Panel – Road Metals Company Limited – Quarry Expansion
CC	
From	Steve Firth

Statement for RCS Testing Programme

The Yaldhurst Air Quality Monitoring Programme is an independently designed three month programme to help gather information on 'nuisance' dust (PM10 and PM2.5), and Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS). The Programme has been developed by Environment Canterbury with support from Christchurch City Council, CDHB and WorkSafe New Zealand. The aim is to help the parties better understand if there are adverse effects on residents living close to quarrying activities, in the Yaldhurst area. The programme is designed to measure the amount of PM10, PM2.5 and RCS collected over a three-month period, during what is considered the driest and windiest time of the year.

The guideline being used for the 'nuisance' dust is the existing Ministry for the Environment (MfE) hourly average of 150µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic metre). The PM10 and PM2.5 results are live on Environment Canterbury's website, (though these results are raw, unvalidated) and have been publicly available for the majority of the programme.

The RCS guideline being used is from the non-occupational Californian annual average of 3 ug/m³ as a long-term (> 1 year) average, as there is no nationally, or internationally, official guideline for RCS non-occupational exposure. For the RCS results these are collected monthly and are then sent to Australia for analysis, so are not able to be viewed live.

As the RCS results are measured against an annual average, we need to complete the programme, i.e gather at least three months' worth of data, to measure against this long-term average, to assess any conclusions. This will avoid any incorrect assumptions being made in the meanwhile. With only one month's worth of data currently, this is not sufficient data from which to gather any meaningful outcomes or actions. . It is vital that we have the three months' data to view together in order to test it against the annual average. We have already seen tampering with one of the RCS monitors and do not wish to see this type of activity again, that would certainly affect the integrity of the scientific information being gathered.

All information gathered in the programme will be made publicly available once the final results have been received. We expect this to be around late June/early July at this stage.

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