

GENERAL BUSINESS

D. Shannahan opened the discussion and invited R. Lowe to speak on the quarrying issue held over from the start of the meeting.

R. Lowe spoke on Councilors' concerns that the quarrying operations should be on a "break even", or slight profit financial footing.

For the past 2 years, little rock had been used and as a result the operation had run at a deficit. It was pointed out that these years were extraordinary in that the West Coast had not experienced major floods and consequently little demand for the rock had been forthcoming. This would change however, based on historic trends.

He also spoke of the "equalisation" of rock on a regional basis, where some "financially sound" quarries subsidised those, which were less economic in the short term.

This has been Council's policy for many years and if this was to change, then rock prices would need to rise to compensate for the short – term losses.

R. Lowe explained that current West Coast equalised rock prices at \$4.50 per tonne compared most favorably with rock prices in other parts of the country, which were as high as \$30 per tonne on a commercial basis.

A. Birchfield was again concerned at the Council's policy of specifying rating district rock to be extracted only from Council's quarries.

C. Levy felt that the quarries needed to be competitive and ratepayers should not expect a guaranteed low priced rock.

D. Shannahan said that he thought it was essential that the Council remained in the quarrying role and that it was important that the supply and cost of rock was available to all ratepayers and contractors on a "level playing field" basis,

P. Ewen spoke and pointed out that that the current annual plan process was under action and individuals with concerns, should use this as a method of feedback to the Council.

C. Levy felt that the gravel buildup under the rail bridge was too high and suggested that the weir should be removed to allow a more thorough "flushout" of accumulated gravel through the system.

P. Gibson and A. Gibson asked that extra rock be placed on the left bank to prevent ongoing erosion in the area.

W. Moen said that this would be done shortly when a contractor was available in the area.

P. Gibson asked if the top of the stopbank could be cleared, as it was very overgrown. It was generally felt that the whole bank should be rotary slashed and later sprayed.

P. Gibson mentioned that he had an erosion problem.

R. Norris agreed to investigate and carry out remedial works if required.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 5.10 p.m.

W. Moen
Senior Engineering Officer