

Porirua's Proposed District Plan 2020

Submission on Porirua's Proposed District Plan

To - Environment and City Planning Team

Date received 18/11/2020

Submission Reference Number #45

Wishes to be heard? Yes

Is willing to present a joint case? Yes

Could gain an advantage in trade competition in making this submission? No

Directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission? N/A

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Submission points

Point 45.1

Support / Support in part / Oppose

Oppose

Section: GRUZ - General Rural Zone

Sub-section: Policies

Provision

GRUZ-P5 Quarrying activities and mining

Provide for new quarrying activities or mining activity in the General Rural Zone where it can be demonstrated that:

1. The siting and scale of buildings and visual screening maintains the character and amenity values of the Zone;
2. There are measures to minimise any adverse noise, vibration, access and lighting effects;
3. There are measures to minimise any adverse effects on character and amenity values of the Zone from the movement of vehicles;
4. Areas of indigenous vegetation are retained where practicable;
5. It avoids or mitigates any adverse effects on waterbodies and their margins; and
6. It internalises adverse environmental effects as far as practicable using industry best practice and management plans, including monitoring and self-reporting.

Submission

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4. *Areas of indigenous vegetation are retained where practicable;*
5. *It avoids or mitigates any adverse effects on waterbodies and their margins; and*
6. *It internalises adverse environmental effects as far as practicable using industry best practice and management plans, including monitoring and self-reporting.*

We object to GRUZ-P5 provision as it is inadequate in its intention to protect residents closer to proposed new quarry activities and it is inconsistent with the current operative plan in which there are the following clear statements to protect against noise:

Objective C11.1 is to minimise the adverse effect of noise on the environment [which includes people per the definition in s 2 of the RMA].

This has the corresponding policies of

- 1.1: to protect the natural and physical environment from unreasonable noise in order to maintain and enhance the amenity values of the environment,
 - 1.2: to promote health by ensuring environmental noise does not exceed a reasonable level.
 - 2.2: states that residents in the Suburban and Rural Zones receive a high level of protection from intrusive noise and from the gradual degradation of the environment from increased background noise levels.
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- The proposed plan should contain these clear statements. In particular C11.2.2 about providing greater protection to rural zones is not included. This policy in particular should be carried through.
 - The policy should contain specifications around the blast values to be expected within 500 metres of a new quarry activity and that a new quarry activity should not be consented where there are consented, occupied dwellings within 500 metres of a new or any quarry activity.
 - Further the benefits from permitting new quarry activities, particularly when linked to regionally significant transport routes are negated. The current proposal to allow a new quarry activity at Willowbank Quarry, linking to SH58 negates INF-P1. There is no way to provide a safe and efficient transport route that provides regional redundancy in the time of crisis where a commercial activity has the capacity to put one truck/trailer unit per minute between 6am and 10pm onto SH58 (and presumably from there onto Transmission Gully when operational), which has not yet been designed for/upgraded to cater for any enhancements, let alone additional truck movements.

Relief sought

Conclusion

With regard to Quarry policy we ask PCC to:

- Remove the provision for new quarry activities. Amend current provision to ensure a strictly adhered to policy regarding, noise and vibration nuisance and distance from properties as discussed.
- To amend GRUZ-P5 Quarrying activities and mining with policies specific to nuisance values such as vibration and noise. Amendments should include permitted dwelling consents to quarry activities in new sites and recommendations for existing sites.