

## 8. CONSULTATION

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### 8.1 General

This section provides a summary of the consultation strategy implemented as part of this proposal, and the key issues raised by stakeholder groups and individuals during this process.

### 8.2 Approach

As a parallel process to the technical investigations, Holcim designed and implemented a consultation strategy.

The objective of this strategy was to support the development of the proposals and the resource consent process, by providing information about the project in a timely and co-ordinated way and using a range of tools to share information and facilitate effective feedback with interested parties.

The consultation programme was fundamentally aligned with the consenting programme and timeframe. Key phases for consultation were therefore related to the production and release of technical information. Consideration was also given to the statutory process under the Resource Management Act and who were likely to be interested parties.

The phases of the consultation programme included:

- Project introduction, explanation of the project and process.
- Identification of issues.
- Release of information from interim technical reports.
- Completion of technical reports.

There were a number of challenges associated with consultation on this project. These included communicating with a widely dispersed community of interest. The three different development sites (plant/quarries and sand and coal pits) created three communities of interest with an additional community of interest located alongside the transportation routes between these sites, the Timaru port and the state highway network. Sharing information with such geographically dispersed parties necessitated the use of various tools, which would effectively reach these people e.g., mail outs, media, letterbox drops, open days, meetings and phone calls.

### 8.3 Project Introduction

The announcement that the Weston cement plant was an option being investigated by Holcim was made via a range of media. This was intended to ensure that a significant proportion of interested parties would be made aware of Holcim's investigations as early in the proceedings as possible. One of the key objectives of this stage of the consultation was to establish how different people and each of the groups/organisations would like to be involved in the consultation e.g., more meetings, posting of information or no further interest and contact.

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### **8.3.1 North Otago Community**

The following communication tools were used to inform the wider North Otago community at Project Introduction. It was anticipated that those persons with a potentially greater interest in the project would contact Holcim and register their interest in receiving more information, meeting with Holcim or providing feedback.

#### **8.3.1.1 Advertorial**

Quarter page advertorials were placed in two regional newspapers, The Otago Daily Times and the Oamaru Mail. The Otago Daily Times is published in Dunedin and has a wide circulation across Otago, while the Oamaru Mail is more locally distributed. These two publications were selected as they were best placed to ensure a high level of coverage within the district.

The advertorials were identical in content in both newspapers. They provided a short introduction to the company and the proposed cement plant. The Weston, Ngapara and Windsor sites were identified along with the proposed programme of investigation of environmental effects and a description of the Holcim decision-making process (where the final decision is to be made by the parent company). The advertorials were accompanied by a general media release covering the same information that could be reported on by any newspaper or media reporter.

A range of contact details was specified within the advertorial to enable interested parties or members of the public to seek further information. These included the company's website and e-mail, along with a special toll-free 0800 telephone number which was created specifically for the project.

#### **8.3.1.2 Newsletter Drop**

A newsletter was produced and circulated to approximately 8,000 local addresses. These included 5100 addresses in the Oamaru urban area, 1840 rural delivery addresses and 304 Post Office boxes. The newsletter provided the same information that was made available in the advertorials, although it went into slightly more detail.

#### **8.3.1.3 Website**

The Holcim website was updated with a new page relating to the Weston Option. All relevant information relating to the project has been posted on this page including copies of newsletters and information sheets for people to download.

#### **8.3.1.4 Media Releases**

Media releases have been sent out to media representatives throughout New Zealand to coincide with the release of any new information. This includes radio and newspapers.

#### **8.3.1.5 Key Stakeholders**

Letters and information packs introducing Holcim New Zealand and the investigation for a new cement plant were sent to 214 key stakeholders. These included property owners in close proximity to the plant, quarry and pit sites (see Section 3), government and non-governmental organisations, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, Te Runanga o Moeraki and community services and groups/organisations including the Weston School, Weston Playcentre and Weston Progress League. The letter stated that follow-up phone calls would be made to immediate neighbours with an offer to meet in person if desired.

The information pack included:

- A media release document which included information on the following:
  - Holcim (the parent company).
  - Holcim and its history of involvement in the New Zealand cement market.
  - A description of the cement manufacturing process.

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- Options being investigated to meet a growing demand for cement (of which a new plant at Weston is one option).
- Contact details.
- A copy of the Holcim Annual Review 2005.
- The Summer 2005 edition of Holcim News (external newsletter).
- A map of the proposed site locations.

To ensure that key people within the community were advised of the project in a timely manner, Holcim also co-ordinated a number of briefings to coincide with the project announcement.

Briefings were undertaken with the following groups. The purpose of these briefings was to provide background information and an overview of the project and to describe the intended process for technical investigations:

- Waitaki District Council Mayor and Chief Executive.
- Otago Regional Council Chairperson, Chief Executive and constituency councillors.
- Environment Canterbury Chairperson and Chief Executive.
- Timaru District Council Mayor and Chief Executive.
- Te Runanga o Moeraki.
- Key national level politicians.
- Lessees of Holcim land.
- Business New Zealand Chair.
- Chair and Chief Executive of the Otago Chamber of Commerce.
- Chair and Chief Executive of the Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce.
- Canterbury Manufacturers Association.
- Waitaki Development Board.

Westport stakeholders relevant to the company's existing cement operations at Westport were also included.

#### 8.3.1.6 Immediate Neighbours

Letters and the information pack were sent to 77 immediate neighbours with an invitation to attend meetings if desired. Approximately 200 individual or small group meetings were held during 2006.

#### 8.3.1.7 Others

Government and non-Government organisations with a potential interest in the project also received letters, an information pack and a follow-up phone call. This included groups such as Fish and Game, the Historic Places Trust (regional and local offices), Public Health South, Federated Farmers (regional and local), the Department of Conservation, the Otago Conservation Board, Forest and Bird, the Ministry of Education, and Ministry for the Environment. Letters were also sent to groups with an environmental interest, such as Greenpeace, and local rotary and recreation clubs.

Discussions with community services/organisations such as St Johns Ambulance, the New Zealand Fire Service, and the New Zealand Police were primarily undertaken through the development of the Social Impact Assessment. This report provides advice on the potential effects of the proposed cement plant on those services.

All of these groups were asked how they might like to be involved in consultation in the future and have been sent copies of Information Sheets and Newsletters.

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## 8.3.1.8 Meet and Greet Events

Following posting of the Information Pack Holcim New Zealand hosted two “meet and greet” events with those property owners directly adjoining or in close proximity to the Weston plant and quarry and the coal and sand pit sites. These parties received a written invitation with many also receiving a follow-up phone call.

These two events were held on Monday 15 and Wednesday 17 May 2006, at the Weston Rugby Clubrooms. The event on the Monday was held in the evening at 7.30pm and was attended by 42 people. The event on the Wednesday was held in the afternoon at 3.30pm and was attended by 22 people. Holding the events on different days and times was intended to enable as many people as possible to attend.

The purpose of the “meet and greet” events was to introduce the Holcim representatives associated with the project, to outline key points about the Cement Supply Options Project, explain the nature of the investigations being undertaken over coming months and talk about the process of consultation with the community. Background information covering Holcim’s historical involvement in New Zealand, the cement manufacturing process and the policy provision in the District Plan for cement manufacturing were also discussed.

The following matters and issues were raised during discussion:

- The raw materials to be extracted at Windsor and Ngapara.
- Discharges to air from use of the lignite coal during the manufacturing process.
- The types of emissions expected at Weston and if these emissions would affect people’s health.
- The emissions discharged from the Westport plant and how close that plant is to residences.
- If existing operations provide information on the effects on health from emissions.
- The volume of water required for the manufacturing process.
- The number of truck movements between the Ngapara and Windsor pits and the plant site.
- Truck movements, and in particular, the noise of trucks, and the 24-hour operation of the plant requiring 24 hour truck movements.
- Why Holcim doesn’t stay on the West Coast.
- Whether the Westport plant would close if Weston were approved.
- If Holcim is prepared to discuss truck movements with people who live along transport routes.
- Comment that this project is being imposed on the community compared with the West Coast where people choose to move into an area where there is an existing cement plant.
- If Holcim would continue to prospect for more coal such as the old Ngapara pit immediately adjacent to the township.
- Potential effects from a coal pit that were raised included dirty washing, respiratory illnesses.
- If Holcim would buy out properties directly affected and immediately adjacent to the plant.
- Hours and days of operation.
- Night time truck movements.
- Lack of certainty and effects on property values.
- Further information sought on the relationship between the volume of coal and cement.

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- Further information sought on the quantity of cement to be produced on an annual basis.
- Holcim questioned if it thinks the Resource Management Act is too hard.
- If Holcim is seeking any consents for other sites in New Zealand.
- If the operation of new plants is different from existing plants.
- What sort of employment would be provided at the Weston plant.
- If the public would get to see the research on air discharges before resource consents are lodged.
- How a railway would get through the existing limeworks.
- If the company is committed to mitigation.

As technical investigations had not commenced, Holcim was unable to provide answers to all of these questions. Further information has subsequently been provided through newsletters and information sheets (see 8.4 below).

### **8.4 Identification of Issues and Release of Technical Information**

The next phase of consultation was concerned with releasing technical information as it became available from the consultants engaged to assess technical areas, and gathering feedback and responses from all of the stakeholder and community groups described. This was implemented through Information Sheets and Newsletters, an Information Open Day and individual meetings. The 0800 number remained operational, as did the website, which was updated with newsletters and Information Sheets as they became available.

A database was used to capture all consultation and communication with stakeholders. At the beginning of January 2007, 358 individuals and organisations had been added to the mailing list. These persons were sent all newsletters and information sheets unless they indicated otherwise. At the beginning of January 2007, there were 444 stakeholders on the database.

#### **8.4.1 Individual Meetings**

Following project announcement, the “meet and greet” events, and in response to individual requests, Holcim staff met with groups and individuals in one-on-one meetings throughout the consultation programme. These are summarised in 8.3.1 above.

#### **8.4.2 Newsletters General**

As the project has progressed Holcim has produced newsletters at key stages. The newsletters have included:

- May 2006 – Project announcement and introduction as discussed above.
- July 2006 – A newsletter describing the intended consultation programme in terms of a timeline and how people can be kept informed and provide feedback. This newsletter described the release of Information Sheets, an Open Day on investigations to date and referred to the Social Impact Assessment. The release and availability of this newsletter was supported by a media release and an advertorial in the Otago Daily Times and the Oamaru Mail to maximise coverage.
- August 2006 – The third newsletter advised the content of the Information Sheets and their likely availability and confirmed the date and times for the Information Open Day.
- October 2006 – This newsletter focused on providing answers to questions frequently asked at the Open Day (in particular, matters relating to the location and features of the cement plant, the quarries, construction, noise effects, transport, air and ecology). Holcim’s commitment to establishment of a community liaison group and environmental performance were also addressed.

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- December 2006 – This newsletter continued the theme of the October 2006 Newsletter by addressing matters which were the subject of frequently asked questions during consultation. In particular, issues related to the Weston walkway, climate monitoring, air emissions and size of the plant were addressed. In addition the Newsletter commented on progress with technical studies and the Assessment of Environmental Effects.

All of these newsletters have been distributed widely throughout the community (approximately 8,000 copies covering the Waitaki district).

### 8.4.3 Information Sheets General

Holcim has produced a series of Information Sheets. These were intended to provide a summary of technical investigations undertaken from mid July 2006 throughout the remainder of 2006 and early 2007. The Information Sheets covered any key issues or effects as known at that point in time along with any identified options or alternatives for the project e.g., transportation routes.

These Information Sheets were sent to all those on the database including government organisations, district and regional council chief executives, mayors, chairpersons, councillors etc (see 8.3.1 above). Each Information Sheet invited the reader to provide feedback via a range of options from phoning the 0800 number, sending an e-mail, in person (at the Open Day or by requesting a meeting) or in writing.

The series of Information Sheets include:

- Information Sheet No. 1, Consultation – this Information Sheet was made available in July 2006. The purpose of this Information Sheet was to provide information on the intended consultation process, timeline and methods for sharing information with the community and receiving feedback. Feedback mechanisms included phoning the 0800 number, sending an e-mail, in writing (a response form to be available at Open Day, or by phoning the 0800 number), in person at the Open Day or by phoning and requesting a Holcim representative to visit.

Information Sheets 2 to 7 were released late August through to early September 2006:

- Information Sheet No. 2, Weston Option – this Information Sheet provided background information on the proposed cement plant, quarries and pits, including the size of the plant, the types of quarries needed, location, volume of production, hours of operation, number of employees, and electricity requirements.
- Information Sheet No. 3, Construction – this Information Sheet provided information on the hours of work during construction, who would do the work, number of people employed and level of traffic anticipated for the plant, quarries and pits.
- Information Sheet No. 4, Noise – this Information Sheet provided information on noise limits that would apply, existing measured noise levels in the locality, predicted noise levels and the types of measures that could be adopted to ensure noise standards are met.
- Information Sheet No. 5, Transport – this Information Sheet provided information on the materials to be transported, the potential for rail to be reinstated, likely traffic movements, possible routes (preferred as well as options), noise from traffic and effects on road safety and efficiency.
- Information Sheet No. 6, Air – this Information Sheet provided information on air quality standards set by the Government and the Otago Regional Council as well as Holcim's own standards. The types of emissions anticipated were identified as well as the activities that may create air discharges. Options for controlling the quality and content of air emissions were also identified.
- Information Sheet No 7, Ecology – this Information Sheet identified the existing ecological values of the plant, quarry and pit sites and the anticipated effects of

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the cement plant and extraction activities on those values. Similarly, the existing aquatic ecological values of waterways and the effects of the plant, quarry and pit activities were identified.

From November 2006, Information Sheets were distributed to the 8,000 newsletter circulation area, rather than just to those on the database mailing list. Information Sheets 8 to 11 were released during November and December 2006:

- Information Sheet No 8, Weston Option Quarries – this Information Sheet discussed and illustrated the proposed options for the Weston Quarries. It provided information on the quarry construction, operation and layout, illustrated with photomontages showing the existing landscape and that expected in 30 years time with proposed rehabilitation. Illustrated maps and cross-sections showing the extent of the quarries were also included.
- Information Sheet No. 9, Frequently Asked Questions – this Information Sheet answered many of the frequently asked questions received throughout the project to date. This included 55 questions and answers across many different subject areas.
- Information Sheet No 10, Weston Option Servicing – this Information Sheet discussed matters relating to the servicing of the plant and its operation such as water usage and servicing, sewage treatment, water treatment and discharge and power supply.
- Information Sheet No. 11, Social, Cultural & Historical Impact Assessment – this Information Sheet provided information on how construction and operation of the proposed Weston cement plant and associated quarries and pits might affect local communities. Also discussed was the potential effects on cultural or historical sites. This included the methodology used in the Social Impact Assessment, overall workforce effects, construction workforce effects, education effects from construction and operation phases, economic impacts, other effects, and the cultural and historical assessment.

### 8.4.4 Information Open Day

An Information Open Day was held on Saturday 16 September 2006. The purpose of this Information Day was to:

- Enable wider members of the community to learn more about the project.
- Up-date on further information from technical investigations.
- Enable interested parties to talk with the technical advisors present.

The Open Day was held at the Brydone Hotel between the hours of 10am and 4pm. In attendance were staff of Holcim involved in the project, as well as planning, landscape architecture and traffic experts. The Open Day was advertised in the August 2006 Newsletter as well as the Otago Daily Times on Saturday 9 and 16 September 2006 and the Oamaru Mail on Friday 8 and 15 September 2006. Details of the Open Day were also advised in a letter sent to all key stakeholders with a copy of the August Newsletter.

The display material included posters covering:

- Holcim and the history of its business in New Zealand.
- Holcim's corporate policies on health and safety, the environment, and working with communities.
- A description of how cement is made.
- A description or overview of the options that Holcim New Zealand is investigating to meet the growing market demand for cement (of which a new plant at Weston is one option).
- A description of the key features of the proposed plant, quarries and pits.
- A description of the key features of construction.

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- Transportation – covering materials to be transported, the possible rail option, volumes, routes and noise effects.
- Noise – noise standards, predicted sources of noise from the cement plant, quarries and pits, and methods for mitigating noise effects.
- Air – standards set by the Government and the Otago Regional Council as well Holcim's own standards, the types of emissions anticipated and options for controlling air emissions.
- Ecology – existing ecological (terrestrial and aquatic) values of the plant, quarry and pit sites and the anticipated effects of the cement plant and extraction activities on those values.
- Photomontages of proposed sites.
- Consultation process and how people could obtain information and feed back their comments.
- An outline of the resource consent process under the Resource Management Act.

In addition Holcim provided copies of its Annual Review, the Holcim Limited 2005 Sustainable Report and rehabilitation reports for other quarry sites in New Zealand.

Approximately 200 people attended the Information Day. A large majority stayed for an extended period of time asking questions and discussing the project. The attendees were a mix of local residents, persons living close to the plant, quarry or pit sites and close to transportation routes, political representatives, interested persons from the Oamaru Township and the media. A number of people commented positively on the display, information sharing to date and the desirability of the project as a good thing for the district.

Transport was an important topic raised by many people. People sought information on the volumes (typical and peak) of vehicles, when maximum volumes would be reached and the types of vehicles. Many people expressed concern that they felt unsafe with trucks on the road, particularly on bends and at intersections. In particular, people wanted to see trucks avoid stretches of road where there are clusters of houses, such as at Windsor. Noise created by traffic was also of interest to many people. Several people asked if Holcim would be up-grading the existing road to accommodate the trucks.

A majority of people appeared to support the concept of reinstating the railway line, including some people who lived in close proximity to the rail corridor. People sought clarification over the number of trains, likely hours of operation and potential noise effects. The rail corridor has now become a popular walkway and a number of people suggested that Holcim needed to consider an alternative if the rail line was rebuilt.

Many people were interested in the quarry and pit images. Clarification was sought on the size of the pits, their staging and life span.

Other matters of interest included:

- Several people were interested in air emissions including dust and CO<sub>2</sub>, potential for any harmful emissions and how Holcim would mitigate any adverse effects.
- Clarification was sought on the quantity of water required for the plant and the effects on the Waiareka Creek. The availability of taking water from the North Otago Irrigation Scheme was identified as a potential option by one attendee.
- Many people found the noise measurements confusing and this is a matter that Holcim identified it needed to provide more clarity to enhance understanding.
- Noise – from traffic, rail and quarry activities.
- Traffic.
- Property values.
- Visibility of the plant/quarries/pits and effects on views from specific properties.

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- Dust.
- Road safety – generally and for school children.
- Effects on local rock art.
- Effects of vibration on escarpment stability.

Holcim has since addressed most of these areas of interest in later newsletters and information sheets.

Response forms were available for people to fill out on the day or to post back if preferred. Only one response form was received. Other forms were available for people to fill out if they wished to receive further information. Seven requests were received.

#### 8.4.5 One-on-One Meetings

Two opportunities for one-on-one meetings were held in Oamaru on 22 November 2006 and 13 December 2006. The dates and times were advertised along with an invitation for people to make an appointment with Paul Commons (General Manager – Strategy and Development) from Holcim, to discuss the project.

Five individuals or couples were seen on 22 November 2006 and two couples were seen on 13 December 2006. The questions and comments from the attendees related to their own personal situations as well as covering more general topics.

#### 8.4.6 Website and 0800 Telephone Number

The following table shows the number of calls made to the 0800 number and e-mails received. The higher numbers in May reflects early interest in the project and people responding to attend the “meet and greet” sessions on 15 and 17 May 2006. The higher numbers in July are attributable to Holcim newsletters and advertorials inviting people to go on the mailing list to receive more detailed information.

The majority of contacts for all other months were mostly requests to go on the mailing list. Other calls included questions on traffic, queries regarding the open day, questions from the media, questions on air emissions, suppliers wanting to record their interest in future work and individuals interested in future work opportunities.

	0800 Calls Made	E-mails Received
May	29	12
June	2	4
July	23	5
August	3	3
September	6	6
October	2	6
November	5	6
December	13	10

**Table 8.1: Summary of contacts from the 0800 number and e-mail address**

The Holcim New Zealand website has all project information available for anyone to access and download.

#### 8.4.7 Community Meetings

In addition to the Open Day and individual meetings, Holcim also attended community meetings.

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#### 8.4.7.1 Windsor Village

Holcim representatives met with Windsor residents in the evening of 15 September 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss community interests and concerns about the project.

The Windsor community's main concern was an increase in traffic driving through the village at 100km/hr. There is a cluster of housing in the locality and some of these houses are close to the road. A number of families live at Windsor and there was particular concern for the safety of school children using the school bus and walking to the tennis courts or to play with friends. Secondary school students are picked up at 7.45am and dropped back at 4.20pm, while the primary school bus picks up at 8.30am and drops off at 3.20pm. Land Transport NZ has previously been approached with a request that the speed limit be reduced, but this was declined. Residents questioned if Holcim would consider restricting truck movements outside the school bus timetable.

People were interested to know if Peaks Road was a valid alternative to avoid the use of the main road (Victoria Hills Road) through Windsor. It was explained by Holcim that Peaks Road adds further travel distance to the plant, is a metal road, an uphill route and there are private ownership factors.

Notwithstanding those issues, Holcim will use Peaks Road to transport sand to avoid the Windsor township altogether and to mitigate the main concern of the Windsor residents, provided agreement can be formalised with the landowner. There are two houses along the Peaks Road route, which may be affected by this new route. Ongoing discussions with the occupants of these houses will continue.

Rail is not an option between the plant and the coal and sand pits due to the cost of a line relative to the quantity of materials, ownership (much of the old rail corridor is now privately owned) and access issues.

Residents sought clarification on the size of trucks and if they would have trailers. Holcim explained that its truck drivers (including contractors) have to undertake vigorous assessment and training and health and safety is paramount to the company as half of its business is involved with distribution. Traffic movements and the differences in volumes between start and full production were discussed. It was requested if Holcim would consider putting in place rules and speed limits for its drivers going through Windsor. People were also interested to know who would pay for maintenance of the roads and if Holcim would pay for sound-proofing, double-glazing, fences, trees etc. to mitigate traffic effects on their properties. Holcim advised it would have some influence on the speeds travelled by their drivers through the township and potentially some flexibility around school bus pickup and drop-off times.

Questions were asked about the operation of the sand pit, the hours of activity, lighting, water supply, number of employees and possibilities for rehabilitation. Holcim advised that a management plan would be put in place, which would cover matters such as dust control and re-use of water. Holcim was able to confirm the sand pit operation was generally going to be a single shift, single driver operation. It was confirmed that all loads would be covered.

Possible benefits were discussed. These included a more diverse economy with a stable, non-seasonal industry, jobs and apprenticeships, support for local services, contractors and businesses, increased money circulating in the local economy, and support for community initiatives.

Questions were also raised about accommodation of construction workers. It was noted that the potential availability of housing was a matter being investigated through the social impact assessment.

Other matters raised include:

- Holcim's compliance with environmental standards in other countries.
- Noise from the pit operation.

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- Timing of traffic surveys.
- Timing of decision for the Weston option.
- Possible alternative uses for sand.
- If Oamaru Port is an option.
- Opportunity for Holcim sponsorship of community facilities.
- Options for landscape treatment of the plant site.
- Alternatives to road transport such as piping.

#### 8.4.7.2 Waiareka Valley Preservation Society

A public meeting was organised by the Waiareka Valley Preservation Society on 12 December 2006 and Holcim staff were invited to attend. Around 100-130 people attended this meeting.

A meeting was held between Rodney Jones and Peter Rodwell (on behalf of the Society), and Paul Commons, Stuart Ward and Robyn Flynn (for Holcim) on 13 December 2006.

The Society has sought clarification on a range of aspects of the proposals, principally in relation to potential air emissions, which Holcim has responded to as relevant technical investigations have progressed.

## 8.5 Stakeholder Consultation

The following sections record results of consultation with particular groups and organisations:

### 8.5.1 Neighbouring landowners and occupiers

Direct consultation with individuals and landowners in the immediate vicinity of the plant/quarry and pit sites has been on going. In addition to the meetings held at the time of project announcement, there have been on-going meetings as required/requested. This has enabled Holcim to develop an understanding of individual issues and concerns. These include:

- Visual effects – particularly what are neighbours going to see from their property.
- Noise effects – what are neighbours going to hear.
- Dust effects – what will cause dust and how would it be controlled.
- Transportation effects - how many trucks would there be, what size, would they be covered, trains, hours of operation, etc.

### 8.5.2 Iwi

Holcim has sought to engage with Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu and Te Runanga o Moeraki at an early stage and throughout the investigation phase of the project. These discussions have been focused at the local Runanga level.

On 3 May 2006 Holcim representatives met with members of the Moeraki Runanga and the Ngai Tahu Maori Rock Art Charitable Trust to pre-brief them on the cement plant option. This included a visit to the various sites. At this initial briefing the issues discussed included effects on rock art as a result of change in land use on the site. This included the potential for sites to be destroyed as well as indirect effects, e.g. effects of air emissions, changes in humidity, effects of vibration and impacts on the landscape context. The potential for protection and enhancement of sites and waterways with cultural values was also discussed, as well as the potential for facilitating public access.

The Runanga also indicated it would be interested to learn more about water takes and discharges along with the general environmental effects of the project. The necessity and appropriateness of a Cultural Impact Assessment was identified as part of the overall Assessment of Environment Effects.

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A further meeting was held with Kai Tahu Ki Otago (KTKO – a professional consultancy that represents and assists Otago Runanga with resource management and environmental issues) in early August 2006. The purpose of this meeting was to further discuss the proposed quarries and cement plant in relation to rock art sites and their values. The matters covered in discussion included both environmental effects as well as enhancement opportunities for rock art, indigenous vegetation and waterways. The information needed to assist with production of a Cultural Impact Report was also identified.

On 12 August 2006 Holcim and Runanga representatives participated in a Rock Art Hikoi. The purpose of this Hikoi was to facilitate a shared appreciation of the landscape setting and physical location of the Rock Art sites and to discuss the potential effects of changes in micro-climate such as dust, vibration, emissions, humidity, increased exposure to weathering, etc. The need for accidental discovery protocols was acknowledged.

The Runanga representatives expressed a need to have confidence in the quality of technical information, the need for Runanga values to be recognised in addition to Western scientific values and to have confidence in the process of consultation and negotiation going forward. This extends through to consideration of mechanisms for implementing enhancements, on-going management and potential for research.

Related to this iwi consultation, Holcim have commissioned a Cultural Impact Assessment and a Rock Art/Maori Archaeology Report. These have been discussed directly at meetings with the Runanga.

It is anticipated that consultation with Te Runanga o Moeraki will continue throughout the resource consent process.

### **8.5.3 New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT)**

There were several phone conversations and follow-up letters to discuss any interest of the NZHPT in the Holcim project. Holcim then organised a meeting on 8 November 2006 to ensure all relevant parties had a good understanding of how to progress all requirements and interests into the future.

NZHPT, Holcim, Holcim consultants, Te Runanga o Moeraki and Ngai Tahu Maori Rock Art Trust, attended the meeting on 8 November 2006 in Oamaru. There was a presentation by Amanda Symon from Ngai Tahu Maori Rock Art Trust on rock art in the area affected by the proposal. It was recommended that Archaeological Authority requirements be determined prior to work occurring and that a full archaeological survey be undertaken prior to commencement. It was suggested that topsoil removed from the site be monitored and contractors should be educated in archaeological issues. An accidental discovery protocol was recommended.

It was identified that it is difficult to predict how to conserve and protect the rock art when faced with several direct and indirect impacts. With regard to the rock art, Holcim stated that there will be recording and investigation of the existing Troublesome Gully sites with ongoing monitoring. Adaptive management will be put in place, if concerns arise, to retard any deterioration.

Holcim added that all potential mitigation recommendations will be discussed with Runanga, such as the management of the rock art on the north-western end of the escarpment and any other opportunities to develop knowledge and protect rock art generally.

Peter Petchey (Archaeologist) also made a presentation on local archaeology and historic sites. He discussed Weston, in particular Hassells Homestead, which was the site of a sheep run from 1860 and the old railway line. He also mentioned trees and a potential house/slaughter house site in Ngapara, the railway line and an old house in Windsor, which may need investigation if destroyed.

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The New Zealand Historic Places Trust including the North Otago Branch are particularly interested in the preservation of the Cave School, which is owned by Holcim but is not on land required for this project.

They also noted that Archaeological Authority applications would likely need to be obtained – Section 11 (single site) and Section 12 (broad area). This should preferably be done before public notification, but at least before the resource consent hearing.

The participants then discussed future progress and roles.

### **8.5.4 District and Regional Councils**

Pre-briefings were held with District and Regional Council senior staff, Chief Executives, Mayors and Chairpersons as described in 8.3.1 above.

The purpose of these briefings was to provide the background and an overview of the project, the intended process for technical investigations and the timing of resource consent applications. The quality of assessments, peer reviews, regular contact and checking of methodology were matters raised as being helpful to the process. The potential availability of District Council services such as water supply and sewage treatment were also discussed.

A discussion was held with the planning consultant acting for the District Council in June 2006. This discussion focused more on the regulatory process such as the peer review of technical reports and the use of, and impact on, Council owned infrastructure such as roads and water supply. These discussions provided important background to development of the project as well as the statutory process to be implemented by Waitaki District Council.

Meetings were held with staff and consultants from the Otago Regional Council on 7 November 2006 and 12 December 2006 to work through the issues relevant to the regional council, the regional consents necessary for the project, and find agreement over interpretation of the regional plans.

A workshop was then held on 15 November 2006 for both Waitaki District and Otago Regional Council staff and peer reviewers to hear the latest findings of the technical reports and to discuss any outstanding issues that needed to be resolved within the assessments. This workshop considered the information available from all technical areas and further discussed the wider project.

A further meeting was held with the planning consultant acting for the District Council on 1 December 2006 to further discuss the resource consents required from the district council and the status of the activities proposed.

### **8.5.5 Ministry of Education**

The Ministry responded to Holcim's invitation to identify interests or issues and expressed the importance of children at Weston School having a safe environment. In particular, they requested that Holcim consider options for ensuring the safety of children walking and cycling to school, including options such as a footpath. The Ministry also requested further information to confirm whether noise effects and dust would affect the school. In general the Ministry was supportive of the proposal recognising that the plant and quarry site has long been designated as a cement policy area and that the creation of employment and opportunities in the area may reflect in an increased roll for the school.

The Ministry has suggested that Holcim now liaise directly with the Weston School on these matters. In addition, Holcim is continuing to send information to the Ministry to ensure they are kept up to date.

### **8.5.6 Weston School**

At the time of project announcement, Holcim met with the Weston School Principal (May 2006) to discuss any potential areas of interest. The Principal raised concerns

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about road safety from additional truck movements in the area, as well as whether dust and allergens in the air may cause asthma.

Recognising the important role of the school in the community, Holcim asked if the school would make available copies of newsletters and information sheets for any interested parents. This arrangement has been maintained throughout the Project Introduction and Release of Technical Information phases of the Consultation Programme.

The Weston School has also been interviewed as part of the Social Impact Assessment undertaken by Fitzgerald Applied Sociology.

Holcim representatives also attended a School Board meeting on 21 November 2006. Discussion covered the project in general, the school's concerns relating to safety and traffic, on-going liaison, and the relationships Holcim has formed with schools in other localities where Holcim have current business interests. The main areas of interest expressed by Weston School were in relation to rail, road traffic, noise, and dust effects. Holcim and the Weston School Board have agreed to maintain an on-going dialogue with a further meeting in early 2007.

#### **8.5.7 Westmount School**

Holcim representatives have met with the Westmount School Director and Administrator. The School representatives expressed general support for the project from a district perspective. Attention was drawn to a school bus drop off point at the corner of Wellington Street and Weston-Ngapara Road where there is a blind spot when turning one way. This concern has been noted by Holcim and will be taken into account as part of transportation planning.

#### **8.5.8 Weston Playcentre**

Holcim contacted the Weston Playcentre with an offer to meet and discuss any areas of interest or concern and a meeting was held with the Playcentre President where issues concerning transport and road safety were raised.

#### **8.5.9 Weston Progress League**

A special meeting was held with the Weston Progress League Committee on 29 November 2006. Four Holcim New Zealand project team members attended. The League advised that it could see potential positives and negatives associated with the proposal. These were mainly economic benefits versus truck and rail movements and associated noise.

Key areas of discussion from the meeting included the loss of the walkway along the rail corridor should the rail line be reinstated. The Progress League has been involved in promotion of this walkway and were interested to know if Holcim had considered retention of the walkway alongside the rail line. Holcim has committed to further discussion on future alternatives for a walkway with the Waitaki District Council and the Progress League.

The Progress League also questioned what provision would be made for rail crossings and identified localities of potential road safety concern.

Other issues raised related to:

- Air emissions and effects on health.
- The Weston Visioning Workshop where attendees noted the positive impact from a cement plant.

Holcim was invited to attend another meeting early in 2007 to keep the group up to date.

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#### **8.5.10 New Zealand Police**

Holcim has sent all information sheets and newsletters to the local police. As part of the Social Impact Assessment, Fitzgerald Applied Sociology has also interviewed the local Police representative to discuss how the proposal may affect policing in the district. The main concern expressed was regarding a future increase in 'migrant' workers and the potential for any protest group issues.

#### **8.5.11 New Zealand Fire Service and Weston Fire Service**

As with the Police, the New Zealand and Weston Fire Service have been kept informed by Holcim and interviewed as part of the Social Impact Assessment by Fitzgerald Applied Sociology.

The main concern expressed was regarding capability to deal with a large fire at the plant. Holcim would have an initial emergency response team at the plant (as is currently the case at Westport) and some fire fighting equipment. Holcim will maintain a close liaison with the Fire Service.

#### **8.5.12 Department of Conservation**

The Department of Conservation has requested further information on vegetation around the Whitstone escarpment. Discussions have also been held between the author of the Ecology report and the Department, and quarry and pit plans have been provided. To date, no concerns or issues have been identified.

#### **8.5.13 Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society**

The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society has not raised any concerns about the project. Information from the Ecology report, including site maps, have been provided.

#### **8.5.14 North Otago Federated Farmers**

North Otago Federated Farmers has not raised any concerns about the project.

#### **8.5.15 Otago Conservation Board**

Otago Conservation Board advised that it had no issues or concerns with respect to the proposal.

#### **8.5.16 New Zealand Fish and Game**

The regional office of New Zealand Fish and Game has advised that it has no issues or concerns with the project.

#### **8.5.17 Ministry of Health**

Holcim has liaised with the Environmental Coordinator of Public Health South. To date, the Ministry has not raised any issues or concerns. The Ministry has requested to be kept informed and will be sent copies of the Air Report and Social Impact Assessment Report.