


dompost.co.nz
THE DOMINION POST

Wednesday, 02 Jul 2008

[News](#) | [Wellington](#) | [Sport](#) | [Features](#) | [Culture](#) | [Blogs|Opinion](#) | [Photos|Videos](#) | [Reader Services](#) | [Newspapers](#)

[The Dominion Post](#) > [News](#) > [Business](#) > [Story](#)

Gully gravel gap looms

By JON HOYLE - The Dominion Post | Wednesday, 02 July 2008

Failure to ensure adequate local supplies of gravel and rock could lead to the cost of the \$1 billion-plus Transmission Gully roading project blowing out significantly, quarry lobbyists say.

The Aggregate and Quarry Association wants local and central governments to address the soaring costs of processing and carting the gravels and rock needed for building and road construction.

Vice-president Jason Lowe said Wellington's three main quarries could meet demand now but would be hard pressed to supply the "very hungry" proposed 27-kilometre Gully highway project north of Wellington, as well as other local construction projects, if more quarries were not established.

Without new quarries, the materials would need to be trucked in from further afield at a significantly higher economic and environmental cost.

The association says it takes about 10 years to navigate the resource consent process and get a quarry operating.

"I suggest [Wellington] is not far off its capacity to supply demand, so it needs to be thought out now before we get to the stage where we're ready to go but hang on, where are we going to get the aggregate for the concrete," Mr Lowe said.

The association says more quarries need to be set up closer to construction sites, to reduce transport costs, if the costs to consumers and taxpayers are to be sustainable.

President James Boyce said the cost of carting material doubled with every 30 kilometres of distance - a calculation made before the recent oil price spikes.

Mr Boyce said transport costs had become a critical concern for quarry operators in the past six to eight weeks.

More quarries closer to work sites would also reduce the carbon footprint of construction, he said.

He doubted the rising price of fuel and reduced use of motor vehicles would significantly affect demand, as public transport, including new rail lines, would still require rock products.

The association wants local and central governments' agreement to work toward a national strategy for the development of aggregate supplies with direct ministerial oversight.

Local governments could help the identification and designation of resources in their districts.

Resistance by residents near designated quarries is expected but the association believes this can be overcome through education and minimising the impact.

One roading contractor who asked not to be named said councils' approaches to administering the Resource

[Email a Friend](#) | [Printable View](#) | [Have Your Say](#)


ROBERT KITCHIN/Dominion Post

GREAT DEMAND: Aggregates and Quarry Association president James Boyce and vice-president Jason Lowe say a failure to ensure adequate local supplies of gravel and rock could lead to the cost of the \$1 billion-plus Transmission Gully roading project blowing out significantly.

Related Links

- [Subscribe to Archivistuff](#)
- [Have your say](#)

Advertisement

YOU CAN READ
THE
DOMINION POST
online

- Email alerts
- Text alerts
- RSS Feeds
- Make this my homepage

Business Headlines

- Sceptics question PGG bid
- Economy will be flat in Q2, pick up later - Bollard
- ACC may be boon for Aussie insurers
- St Laurence suspends payouts to investors
- Petrol and diesel rise again as oil at new high
- Skellerup back to basics after restructuring
- High borrowing costs limit CBS
- ICP Bio steps down from sharemarket
- Bolger to head KiwiRail
- PFG result twice as bad as reported
- Employment confidence survey shows big tumble
- NZ Post's Aust courier joint venture
- Kiwisaver numbers pass 700,000
- Hellaby soars on BBQ sale



Show Me The Money: Bernard Hickey's blog
Financial reporting so bad the A-G gave up

Sponsored Links

- [Sorted's Reverse Mortgage Calculator](#)
- [Find out how to become a power saver now!](#)
- [Get SKY - 1st month FREE](#)

Opinion Poll



Are schoolkids' backpacks too heavy?

[See story](#)

- Yes, the kids are becoming hunchbacks
- No, the exercise is good for them

Other features



The politics blog from our gallery team
[Is Ruth's hair standing on end?](#)



Cool Kit: Reuben Schwarz's blog on gadgets
[Star Wars clipstravaganza!](#)



Looking ahead to the commute home?
[Check out traffic cameras here](#)

Management Act varied widely and inter-council tensions could sometimes delay the start of quarries and major roading projects.

Advertisement

The association recommends that the Government consider changes to the RMA and the Local Government Act to make councils include aggregate resources in long-term plans.

Mr Lowe said a significant number of potential sites had already been rendered unuseable by urban development.

The association says aggregates are key strategic raw materials for the country's economic growth and resources need to be secured.

Since 1991, the production of aggregates has risen from 14 million tonnes a year to an expected 50 million tonnes for 2008, far ahead of earlier estimates.

[Email a Friend](#) | [Printable View](#) | [Have Your Say](#)

Next Story: [Sceptics question PGG bid](#)
[- More Business Stories](#)

Ads by Google

[New Zealand Court Records](#)

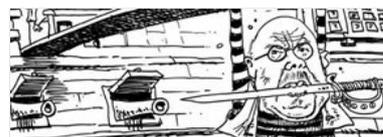
Search anyone's court records now Online public record resources.
[Court-Records.Gov-Reports.net](#)

[Live Traffic Web Cams](#)

Watch Live traffic info Web Cam 21 Live Traffic Cams on MetService
[www.metservice.co.nz/trafficcam](#)

[Wellington Hotels - \\$100](#)

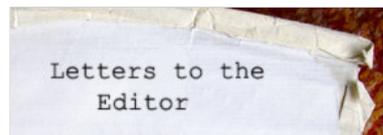
1000's of Hotel Rooms around NZ for \$100 per night. Book Now!
[www.accorhotels.co.nz/wellington](#)



Cartoons by Tom Scott
[Check back daily for a new cartoon](#)



Drivertalk: Dave Moore's motoring blog
[Counting the cars on the New Jersey turnpike](#)



Letters to the Editor
[Creationism v evolution, Pacific migration and diets](#)

Sponsored Links

[Business commentary](#) | [Feature articles](#) | [International business](#) | [IT and Telecommunications](#) | [Blog: Show Me The Money](#)

[News](#) | [Wellington](#) | [Sport](#) | [Features](#) | [Culture](#) | [Blogs|Opinion](#) | [Photos|Videos](#) | [Reader Services](#)

[Site Map](#) | [About Stuff](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Advertise Online With Us](#) | [Place a Newspaper Classified Ad](#) | [A to Z directories](#) | [Magazine Subscriptions](#) | [Competitions](#) | [RSS](#)

© Fairfax New Zealand Limited 2007. All the material on this page has the protection of international copyright. All rights reserved.