Submission from the AQA on the Draft Critical Minerals List for New Zealand

October 2024

Introduction

The Aggregate and Quarry Association (AQA) is the industry body representing quarrying companies which produce 47 million tonnes of aggregate and quarried materials consumed in New Zealand each year.

Funded by its members, the AQA has a mandate to increase New Zealanders' understanding of the need for aggregates, improve our industry and users' technical knowledge of aggregates and assist in developing a highly skilled workforce within a safe and sustainable work environment.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Draft Critical Minerals List for New Zealand.

The critical importance of aggregates in New Zealand

In 2023, the New Zealand aggregate and quarrying sector produced an estimated 47.9 million tonnes of aggregate, including limestone and other products, with an economic contribution to New Zealand estimated at $2.8 billion.

Accessing, extracting, processing and transporting aggregate is required for the construction of infrastructure in New Zealand. Aggregates form the foundation of every road and building, either directly or as part of materials such as concrete. Additionally, as catastrophic events in recent years have highlighted, the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, will put added pressure on rock supply for sea walls, riverbank protection and restoration, and other climate adaptation solutions.

It is therefore more vital than ever that local aggregate resources throughout the country are identified, protected and effectively managed to build resilient infrastructure and homes.

Importing of aggregates and sand into New Zealand is neither cost effective nor practical given logistical constraints such as shipping and port facilities in New Zealand. We therefore strongly support the inclusion of aggregates and sand on the Critical Minerals List.

Wayne Scott
Chief Executive Officer
Aggregate and Quarry Association

Privacy of natural persons