

# QUARRYNZ: AQA confirms CEO role, peak extractives body discussed

Cameron Massey - Thu, 19 Jul 2018

The Aggregate and Quarry Association will proceed with hiring a full-time chief executive as discussion on a peak extractives body continued.

A motion supporting the new role was passed at the AQA's annual general meeting at the QuarryNZ Conference in Hamilton yesterday, with only one dissenting vote.

The board also elected 31-year-old Jared Johnston, Fulton Hogan's South Island quarries manager, as new chair.

Mike Higgins, quarries development manager for Waikato-based quarry and cartage company J Swap Contractors, was elected deputy chair.

In a first act, Johnston and Higgins are developing a survey of AQA membership to test industry views on a range of issues, including emerging new regulations for quarries.

"We want a whole new approach to engagement and that starts with our members," says Johnston.

The chair for the past three years, Brian Roche stood down along with deputy Jayden Ellis, though both were re-elected to the AQA board.

Winstone Aggregates' Matt George was also put onto the board with Andrea Cave not standing again.

Outgoing CEO Roger Parton is stepping down after 12 years.

## Position costs

Johnston says advertisements for the new CEO role will appear this weekend and hopes an early appointment can be made.

"We have a range of challenges facing our industry mostly around where quarries interface with people on urban fringes. We want a new CEO who can work with Government, councils communities and our members and create a new dialogue and some win/win outcomes."

A funding shortfall for the position is to be met from the association's reserves, as well as a levy on members if necessary.

Higgins said the costs involved in a fulltime chief executive for the first three years of the position would be covered by existing subscriptions.

"I would be gobsmacked if we had to pull the levy in the first twelve months. We've got reserves, we're proposing to dig into those reserves."

The AQA has sought and secured from larger industry members an additional \$81,000 per year for the next three years to help meet the costs.

During his parting chair speech, Roche said the situation affecting organisations around Christchurch and Canterbury has highlighted the need for the fulltime chief executive role.

"It's one reason why the AQA board laid out earlier this year the need to put in place a new CEO who can take this industry to the next level."

He said with the proposal for a new extractives sector peak organisation failing to materialise, the board needed to maintain momentum for change.

## Peak body discussion

Road Metals managing director Murray Francis told members present at the AGM that the AQA needs to lift its game.

He said quarry operators in the Canterbury region have experienced "a lot of problems" in recent years and questioned the AQA's representation efforts.

"I do accept that we've got to pay more money to get the results that we want.

"I can't see why we can't work together or let Straterra or MinEx actually take some of that role. That is what I would like to see happen."

Standing AQA chair Roche said the option is a possibility with a committee established from the board to work through all the options.

