

## **E28. Mineral extraction from land**

### **E28.1. Background**

Land-based mineral extraction can only occur where the mineral resource is found. This means that mineral extraction activities can be found in urban areas and rural areas. Mineral extraction sites within Auckland's urban areas are historical operations, sometimes with a limited future economic life, as available resources become exhausted. More quarries operate in rural areas. The expansion of residential and urban activities into the rural area means there is competition for access to land where the mineral resources are found. There is also increasing conflict between people with residential lifestyle expectations and quarry operators who are providing essential mineral resources to meet Auckland's ongoing demands.

Other sections of the plan which are relevant to mineral extraction and give effect to these objectives and policies are:

- mineral extraction activities in the coastal marine area are provided for within the Coastal – General Coastal Marine Zone;
- existing significant mineral extraction activities are identified by the Special Purpose Zone – Quarry Zone; and
- farm and forestry quarries are provided for in rural zones.

### **E28.2. Objective [rp/dp]**

- (1) Mineral extraction from the land and its delivery is efficient and meets Auckland's needs while significant adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

### **E28.3. Policies [rp/dp]**

- (1) Avoid where practicable undertaking new mineral extraction activities in areas where there are natural and physical resources that have been scheduled in the Plan in relation to natural heritage, Mana Whenua, natural resources, coastal, historic heritage and special character.
- (2) Where it is not practicable to locate mineral extraction activities outside the areas identified in Policy E28.3(1), consideration will be given to all of the following:
  - (a) the benefits likely to be derived from the mineral extraction activities;
  - (b) any reduced transport effects from having a mineral extraction site closer to the area of demand;
  - (c) the extent to which significant adverse effects can be avoided; and
  - (d) the extent to which adverse effects can be remedied, mitigated or, where not mitigated, can be offset.
- (3) Provide for existing and new mineral extraction activities of a significant size and scale by their inclusion in and management by a Special Purpose – Quarry Zone.

- (4) Avoid, remedy or mitigate as far as practicable significant adverse effects associated with mineral extraction activities.
- (5) Require proposals for new mineral extraction activities in rural areas to provide adequate information on the establishment and operation of the activity and demonstrate:
  - (a) the size and scale of extraction activities and the expected length of operation of the extraction site;
  - (b) the design and layout of the site, the access roads and supporting facilities;
  - (c) that adequate measures will be used to:
    - (i) manage noise, vibration, dust and illumination to maintain amenity values of the surrounding land uses, particularly at night-time;
    - (ii) manage adverse effects of traffic generation and maintain safety to all road users, particularly measures to manage heavy vehicles entering or exiting the site;
    - (iii) avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on soil and water quality, including impacts on watercourses within the extraction site and the effects of discharges from the site into the neighbouring environment;
    - (iv) maintain land stability;
    - (v) mitigate significant adverse effects on visual and landscape values; and
    - (vi) protect the values of identified heritage or archaeological sites, buildings, places or areas, along with Mana Whenua values.
  - (d) options anticipated for the rehabilitation of the site, either by a staged process or at the end of the economic life of the quarry, having regard to the expected life of the mineral extraction site.
- (6) Require a quarry management plan for mineral extraction activities to be prepared to address operational matters associated with mineral extraction, including management of adverse effects and actions to avoid, remedy, mitigate or offset these effects.
- (7) Ensure buildings and structures are of an appropriate size and scale and located appropriately in relation to site boundaries.
- (8) Enable the use of the mineral extraction site for activities compatible with mineral extraction activities and provide for a range of appropriate activities within or adjoining the mineral extraction sites where these rely on minerals as a raw material.
- (9) Enable quarries ancillary to farming and forestry activities to be established in rural areas.

- (10) Require quarry operators to internalise the adverse effects associated with new mineral extraction activities as far as practicable while recognising the need to allow for the efficient ongoing extraction of mineral resources.