

“It’s all about leaving our neighbours with a good impression of Winstone Aggregates.”

ANDREA CAVE, Environment Manager.



Sustainability is a journey, not a destination

Our country's prosperity hinges on the quality of its infrastructure: roads, buildings, drains and culverts are vital to our everyday lives. In New Zealand, our demand for aggregate is enormous— more than 11 tonnes per person, every year.

It's clear that the quarrying industry has the potential to cause great harm and consequently, managing environmental effects and conducting business in a sustainable manner is critical to successfully meeting the country's long term requirements for aggregates.

Andrea Cave is Winstone Aggregates' Environment Manager. She's responsible for the management of the organisation's environmental, including improved biodiversity, and sustainability functions. With a Master's degree in Geography (majoring in Resource Management), Andrea's background includes roles at various Auckland councils as well as international experience, in particular the United Kingdom where she held a number of environmental management positions.

At Winstone Aggregates, Andrea is responsible for ensuring compliance with conditions of consent, management plans and district plan rules. She develops and oversees many of the organisation's environmental management plans and administers Winstone Aggregates' Environmental Management System, an ISO 14001 framework used to manage the environmental effects of the business. Following a review last year, Andrea rewrote the system to better ensure accountability for environmental performance with a structure that encourages openness and environmental improvement at all operational sites.

While the impact on the environment can be significant, it need not be negative, Andrea says. "Our strategy is to achieve net environmental benefit".

The costs involved with transporting aggregates mean that many quarries are located close to, or within urban areas. Managing the equilibrium between the economics of quarrying and its effects on the environment, and the local community, is challenging. "Often, people aren't aware of the important contribution that aggregates make to our everyday lives and so don't appreciate the need for our operations." Andrea works with local communities to establish a social licence to operate at each Winstone Aggregates site; her aim is to leave neighbours with a good impression of Winstone Aggregates. "There is always a high level of interest in our quarry operations so we hold regular open days so locals can see how Winstone Aggregates operates and the ways in which manage our effects."

Winstone Aggregates also makes a significant investment in sponsorship. Andrea's objective is to change relationships from charitable recipients to alliances to that create diverse benefits for both partners and added value for communities. "Our sponsorship programme allows us to demonstrate our commitment to local communities, and the environment." Trees for Survival, a hands-on environmental education experience where children grow and plant native trees and shrubs, is one such case. **Winstone Aggregates supports three schools financially, and with company time. During a school planting day at Cue Haven, a rehabilitation project north of Auckland, Andrea saw a further opportunity to contribute; Winstone Aggregates is now providing the project with aggregates to create new paths and tracks.**

After working on both sides of the compliance fence, Andrea is proud to work for a company with a good reputation and an excellent compliance track record. She enjoys the diversity both inside and outside the quarry gate, the people, the environment... "Quarrying is an exciting and diverse industry" says Andrea. "Every day brings new challenges. It keeps you on your feet!"