

# Media Statement

27 May 2016

## **Holcim Westport land sale process**

Holcim is currently working towards 30 June 2016 as the closure date for its Westport cement manufacturing plant. Once cement manufacturing ceases, landholdings and facilities will no longer be required by Holcim. The plant site and its associated facilities and buffer land comprise over 500 hectares of land. The majority of this land is 14 km east of the town of Westport at Cape Foulwind and includes the cement plant manufacturing site and quarry, 11 houses, the wharf silos, packing plant and the Okari Water Treatment Station.

The Buller District Council has been seeking to attract new industries to the Buller district to increase employment opportunities in the region and Holcim has been supportive of this process. Part of this work has been publicising the availability of the Holcim land for new industry or development. A number of parties have expressed interest in the plant site, however, no firm offers have been received.

Ross Pickworth General Manager Cement for Holcim New Zealand, said “Holcim is looking to identify suitable groups that are able to take on the custodianship of such a diverse landholding with a potential to develop it in a manner that is both sympathetic to the local environment and which reinvests into the community and the region.”

To increase the opportunity to find a suitable buyer interested in developing an industry or business which will help the region long term, Holcim will be publicising the availability of the Holcim landholdings to potential local and international buyers to try and gain firm registrations of interest. This will be a publicly advertised process, conducted by international commercial land agents, Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL).

The expression of interest process will commence at the beginning of June for a duration of six weeks. During that time all persons interested in any part of the Holcim landholdings will be asked to formally submit their interest and identify the parcels of land that they wish to acquire.

After the closure of the expression of interest campaign, JLL and Holcim will negotiate with interested parties to conclude the sale of the land.

## **Plant site**

Holcim expects to demolish the plant site in a timely fashion after the plant closes and is underway with planning for that work. A tender process will be conducted for the demolition contract.

Holcim intends that the majority of the plant site will be demolished to ground level, with five buildings remaining for industrial and office use.

## **Farm land**

Holcim leases buffer land around the plant, quarry and packing plant to several local farmers for grazing purposes. This land will be part of the expressions of interest process. The current lessees are able to formally submit their interest if they wish to do so.

## **Wharf and silos**

Once the Westport cement plant closes and the wharf silos are emptied (end of June), Holcim will no longer be using the silos. The wharf silos are on leased land. The opportunity to acquire the wharf silos and distribution facility and potentially enter into a long-term lease for the site will be advertised as part of the expressions of interest process. All persons interested in these assets can formally submit their interest.

## **Holcim houses**

Holcim has 10 houses in Larsen Street and another residence nearby which will be included in the sale process. The existing employee tenants are able to remain in the houses after closure while matters relating to services and titles to the houses are being worked through. Vacant houses will be advertised for rent until they are sold. All persons (including current tenants) interested in a house or the entire block, will be able to formally submit their interest.

## **Quarry**

A third party may be interested in continuing to operate the quarry as there is still a considerable volume of rock resource remaining, but this won't be known until the closing date of expressions of interest.

If a suitable third party isn't found, Holcim will continue the planning for removing the quarry equipment and closing the quarry in a timely fashion. There would also be a number of matters to be worked through in determining the future of the site; these include legal issues and ensuring the site is safely closed post-production in accordance with health and safety legislation. There is a need to determine what physical work must take place to initially make the quarry safe and also to assess the potential for a lake. A hydrological study, engineering assessment and discussions with WorkSafe Mines inspectors are occurring. If not sold as a going concern, future options can't be confirmed until this work is completed which may take some time.

Holcim are communicating separately with their lessees, tenants, and key stakeholders to keep them informed of activities related to closure.

Ross Pickworth  
General Manager Cement

***About Holcim New Zealand***

*Holcim (New Zealand) Ltd is a leading supplier of cement, aggregates, and ready mixed concrete in New Zealand. Its involvement in the New Zealand building industry dates back to 1888, and today it operates at 23 sites and employs approximately 340 people. It is part of the regional Holcim Australia/New Zealand business and the global LafargeHolcim Group, the world's leading supplier of cement, aggregates and construction-related services represented in 90 countries on all continents.*

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