

Holcim Cement Customer Update

Issue 5, June 2016

Holcim (New Zealand) Ltd

Timaru Cement Terminal

The Timaru Cement Terminal has been operating successfully since January this year. The official opening was held on 25 February 2016. Local MP Jo Goodhew and Steven Joyce Minister for Economic Development, cut the ceremonial ribbon. Guests enjoyed a tour of the site and were most impressed with the structures, equipment and site overall.

Auckland Cement Terminal

Commissioning of the Auckland Cement Terminal is almost complete. Ships have been unloading into the storage dome and cement tankers have been loading from the truck load-out facilities and delivering to Auckland customers. Onehunga sales and technical staff are currently moving into the offices at the terminal. The cultural design on the concrete walls of the main building look great with the designer glass 'fins' complementing it nicely.

Customer transition

Most of our customers in the South Island have transitioned to our new cement. Feedback from customers has been that the product has performed very well with the general observation of better bleed and setting time characteristics.

The closure of both bars in Westport and Manukau for over three weeks recently meant some customers switched to the new Ultracem cement earlier than scheduled. Although the transition has only recently commenced in the North Island, so far everything seems to be going according to plan.

Auckland Laboratory

The brand new technical laboratory at the Auckland terminal will be providing the usual laboratory testing as well as additional technical services for customers.

The laboratory staff (some from the Westport Laboratory) are currently setting up operations in the laboratory.

Holcim are very lucky to have secured the very experienced Dr Jarod Wilson as the Auckland Laboratory Manager. His experience and expertise in chemistry, methods of analysis, and all aspects of laboratory work will be a great asset.

Terminal opening

The Holcim Auckland cement terminal project was completed on time and budget (as was the Timaru terminal). The project team including key contractors have done an exceptional job with the terminals looking very impressive. The Auckland terminal will be officially opened on Friday 8 July 2016.





Visits to Japan

At the end of May Holcim took five customers to Japan to visit some of the Mitsubishi facilities. Visits included a Mitsubishi cement plant, pre-cast operations, concrete plants, and pipe precast operations, across Japan. The large scale of operations and attention to quality of processes was evident throughout the visits.

New Ship

In December 2015 Holcim announced the decision to sell or decommission the 40 year old ship MV Westport and its intention to operate with one domestic ship instead of two. Through the LafargeHolcim global network, there was an opportunity to purchase a larger and newer bulk cement vessel from Holcim Vietnam, named the MV Buffalo. Holcim has now purchased this vessel which will replace the 29 year old MV Milburn Carrier II. There are some modifications required before it is ready for operation in New Zealand but this should be completed by the end of the year.



Westport Plant closure

There has been a lot of planning and work leading up to the Westport Cement Plant closure on 30 June 2016. The staff has continued to be amazing with their commitment to ensuring everything runs to plan in the lead-up to plant closure. All major equipment has now been shut down and deactivation of equipment has commenced. Holcim continues to support employees as they prepare for the next phase in their careers.



National Award

In February this year, the Human Resources Institute of NZ Award for Organisational Change and Development was awarded to Holcim New Zealand. This was in recognition of the initiatives and work that has been carried out over the last few years in Westport in light of the plant closure.



Westport land sale

Once the plant closes, the land and facilities will no longer be required. The plant site and its associated facilities and buffer land comprise over 500 hectares of land. Holcim has commenced an expression of interest process through agents Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL) and would ideally like someone to develop an industry or business which is both sympathetic to the local environment and which reinvests into the community and the region.



Holcim Global Awards opening soon

A LafargeHolcim forum for sustainable construction was held in April this year in Detroit USA with representatives from around the world in attendance. Holcim New Zealand hosted two guests from the architectural and engineering fraternity in New Zealand. The three-yearly global Holcim Foundation awards will open for entries on 4 July 2016 and close on 21 March 2017. This USD 2 million competition seeks projects that balance environmental performance, social responsibility, and economic growth. See more at [this link](#).



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