

For Immediate Release

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Keystone Segmental Retaining Walls Help New Zealand Quarry Expand Operations While Conquering Challenging Site Conditions

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The W. Stevenson & Sons' Drury Quarry is one of the largest aggregate suppliers in New Zealand. With four loaders dedicated to loading up to 500 trucks daily, the quarry supplies greywacke rock, which is used as base material in roads, concrete aggregate, paving, and construction.

But it came time to grow even bigger. After a culmination of four years of research and development by Steve Ellis, Stevenson Quarries Divisional Manager, and his team aimed at improving productivity at the quarry and increasing the range of products they could manufacture, the updated Drury Quarry was designed.

"We looked at what people were doing in Europe, the United States, and Australia over a three year period and made our conclusions and decisions based on what we learned," explained Ellis. "We were able to combine innovation and best-practice gathered from our research into various quarry operations worldwide." Ellis and his team discovered that there were massive gains to be made in productivity and quality – up to three times the previous levels. "This project brought together the latest technology in construction and in quarrying performance and we certainly feel we came up with the right combination," Ellis firmly noted.

Peters and Cheung were the consulting engineers charged with designing and developing the multi-level site, as well as providing geotechnical assistance.

The first part of the development was substantial earthworks and retaining at the site. Premier Construction was the main contractor on the project, assisted by ICB Retaining Walls who constructed the massive Keystone retaining wall system.

There were a number of design considerations that made this expansion project no simple task. Aesthetically, an existing wall needed to be considered while trying to tame the 35 degree back slope. Because the existing site was to be upgraded and not built from scratch, space issues led to some complex geometry in the tight radii of internal and external curves needed to wrap around existing quarry equipment. Furthermore, the wall would reach 11 meters in some areas, so key aspects of the design included determining safe cut slope angles and carrying out slope stability analysis.

Additionally, the wall was required to resist static loads of up to 200 tons from the primary crusher, where huge boulders are transported and pass in the first phase of the rock crushing process. From the primary crusher, manageable-sized rock is then able to be processed through a secondary crusher and graded into useable aggregates for roading, drainage, and concrete manufacture. It was also required that the wall bear the static and live loads of the heavy trucks.

Another challenge for designers Peters & Cheung was New Zealand's seismic activity. New Zealand is situated at the juncture of two tectonic plates, the Australian Plate and the Pacific Plate, whose collision is responsible for New Zealand's beautiful and mountainous landscape. It is also the reason that the Alpine Fault runs the length of New Zealand's south island, marking a prime area for earthquake activity.

The huge scope of the project called for a construction solution that was strong, stable, flexible, and cost effective.

Since Stevenson company is a producer of Keystone retaining wall products, it would seem that the use of Keystone was a foregone conclusion for this project, but engineering/design consultants Peters & Cheung were most interested in providing the optimum solution for the W. Stevenson & Sons Drury Quarry. "The key properties of Keystone – strength, design flexibility, easy installation, and cost effectiveness – were further enhanced by the aesthetic and environmentally-friendly solution it provided for this application," noted Ka-Ching Cheung, of Peters & Cheung Ltd. "And an extra benefit," he added, "was the great welcome, support, and collaboration we received from the Keystone team." Mr. Cheung also stated that the wall was able to be built vertically without the need for setback, resulting in smooth curves, and concluded that the Keystone wall has been performing remarkably well under the very heavy machine and dump truck loading.

The specific requirements of the design called for a construction system that was able to work

with the existing structures, as well as the geographical characteristics of the site and the Keystone system was able to provide this.

“We are over the moon about this new facility, adds Steve Ellis. “It certainly secures our future as one of the leading quarrying organizations in the world.”

For more information on Keystone products, visit www.keystonewalls.com or call 800-747-8971.
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[Additional Information of Interest]

Project:	W. Stevenson & Sons Drury Quarry
Location:	Auckland, New Zealand
Product:	Keystone Standard
Units used:	17,072
Square Meters:	1,552 m ²
Main Contractor:	Premier Construction Ltd., Auckland New Zealand
Sub Contractor	
Retaining Walls:	ICB Retaining Walls, Auckland, New Zealand
Consulting	
Engineers:	Peters & Cheung Ltd., Auckland, New Zealand