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Concrete crusher recycling materials for aquatic centre

Small pieces of the old Maori Park swimming pool complex will be given new life in Timaru's new Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre.

The environmental benefits and savings associated with recycling materials reached deep into the demolished pools today as earthmoving contractors Paul Smith Earthmoving continued early clearing work on the site of the new centre.

Using its new Komatsu concrete crushing machine, the company transformed much of the former pools, pathways, and associated facilities into reusable pebbles, small stones and concrete cubes about 65mm square, enabling the aggregate to be stockpiled for reuse in the new centre rather than being consigned to a landfill and taking up valuable space.

Paul Smith Earthmoving director Bruce Tinnelly said the crushed concrete would be screened to suit a number of applications in the new complex.

The high technology concrete crusher could munch through as much as 65 tonnes of concrete per hour and was even capable of separating reinforcing steel from the concrete rubble at the rate of two tonnes per hour.

"After just a day in operation, there's a sizable amount of steel here already to be collected for scrap metal.

"Recycling and reuse of building materials where possible is a company philosophy and the Komatsu crusher can also be used to screen shingle," Mr Tinnelly said.

The concrete crushing is part of an early-works package on the Maori Park site that the Timaru District Council decided was necessary to give those tendering for the main construction contract a clear site to assess. The works also included services termination, excavation and fencing.

Mr Tinnelly said the early-works package should be completed by the end of this month.



Digesting a swimming pool and producing reusable materials: Paul Smith Earthmoving machine operator Andy Smith, of Timaru, holds rubble ranging from 65mm pieces of concrete down to pebbles, the product of the company's high-technology concrete crusher pictured behind him spewing out materials suitable for recycling back into the new Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre.