

## Melissa Allan (VPA)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 December 2021 6:21 PM  
**To:** richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au  
**Cc:** Tony Marks (VPA); Laurie Mitchell (VPA); Peter Cooper (VPA); Samuel Duff (VPA); mitchell.advocacy@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au; jaclyn.symes@parliament.vic.gov.au; danielle.green@parliament.vic.gov.au; jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au  
**Subject:** FW: Amendment C158 Beveridge North West PSP  
**Importance:** High  
**Categories:** No action Required

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**From:** Louise Komiat [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 December 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Amendment C158 Beveridge North West PSP

To the Hon. Richard Wynne, Minister for Planning,

I am writing to you regarding a matter of great importance-that the proposed quarry for Beveridge Wallan should not go ahead. There are many extremely strong reasons why this quarry should not be allowed to proceed, and the strongest of these is the severe negative and detrimental effects that it would have on not only the residents living right nearby, but the whole townships of Beveridge and Wallan. There does not need to be a quarry so close to a town, with community facilities such as a secondary school, early learning centre and medical centre extremely close to the proposed site.

The detrimental effects on the health of residents in the area would be many and would be caused by the excessive dust, noise, explosions, heavy traffic and vibrations coming from the quarry-for 20 to 30 years. Wallan already has a higher amount of residents with health conditions, including respiratory illnesses, and disabilities, than the average for Victorian residents- to bring a large quarry so close to town would be an absolute disaster. The economic benefit (so-called) would be virtually non-existent. I propose that to achieve a huge economic benefit to Wallan and Beveridge, turn to tourism instead. The Friends of Merri Creek have made an excellent suggestion of using the proposed quarry area to create a wildlife park/reservation instead, which would enhance the local area rather than destroying it. When they rejuvenated the Merri Creek, not only did they make it a beautiful natural area again, but more wildlife and birds returned to the area, making it a tourist attraction as well as a lovely spot for locals to enjoy. To further attract tourists to the area, having a beautiful wildlife reserve, rather than a blight on the landscape, just as you drive into the town of Wallan, would surely be a much wiser, and more sustainable choice. In addition, there is a building of important historical significance at 175 Northern Highway Wallan, which used to be the Inverloch Castle Hotel. Originally established in 1850, it was at one time a change-over point for Cobb and Co, and the property also included a working farm, as well as providing food, drink, accommodation, and even the services of a priest at one point, who had his own room in the hotel. Unfortunately now in ruins, it could still be restored (as Ned Kelly's family home not far away has been) and could be another important tourist attraction. It has been described as a building of heritage significance. This could be tied in with promoting the many culinary delights that our region has to offer, with restaurants and cafes employing more local people and bringing more tourist dollars to the region. Places such as the Hidden Valley Resort which include sporting, golf and dining options are becoming increasingly popular and employing more people. Many people will travel up from Melbourne, interstate, and even overseas to use the facilities and/or stay in the accommodation. Local cafes such as Pretty Sally's and restaurants such as San Marcos are very popular with tourists as well as locals, who would be less likely to come if the sight greeting them as they drive into town is a huge quarry.

Another disastrous effect of having a quarry at the proposed site for decades, so close to housing, would of course be the effect on the values of people's homes. It would also cause prospective residents to choose elsewhere when buying their first home, their next home, or for their tree-change. There are residential developments just adjacent to the proposed site of the quarry. The people who have recently bought properties and land in this area would also be hugely impacted not only in their physical and psychological health, but economically as well.

A quarry simply should not, and does not need to be so close to the thriving, growing towns of Beveridge and Wallan. The quarry could easily be located elsewhere, in a position not immediately adjacent to a township. I most strongly oppose the proposed quarry for Beveridge North/Wallan, in Amendment C158 Beveridge North West PSP, for all of the reasons I have mentioned above. To summarise, the quarry should not be allowed to proceed, as the results would be disastrous for the health of residents, for the value of people's homes, for historical reasons, for the attractiveness of the area for tourists, for the liveability and sustainability of the region, and for future development in the area, including future housing.

Your sincerely,  
Louise Komiat,

Resident of [REDACTED] Wallan.

#### References.

*"Final Report: Wallan Structure Plan and Infrastructure Coordination Plan, Victoria: Historical Heritage Assessment, HV Number: 4437"*, Wendy Alberto, Sally Beaton and Sylvana Szydzik, Ecology and Heritage Partners, Victoria, 2014.

*"Inverlochy Castle Hotel, Parts 1, 2 and 3"*, website, <https://oldplaces.com.au/inverlochy-castle-hotel-beginnings/>, accessed on 15/12/21.

*"Wallan Parkland or Quarry,"* Friends of Merri Creek video, youtube.com, Victoria, 2021.

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