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**Subject:** Formal statement of Opposition to Amendment C158 - Beveridge North West Precinct Structure Plan (PSP)  
**Date:** Friday, 17 December 2021 4:01:06 PM

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Good afternoon all,

My name is Julia Freeman, and I am writing to you to formally express my opposition to the Quarry outlined in Amendment C158 - Beveridge North West Precinct Structure Plan (henceforth referred to as PSP).

Since moving from Melbourne to Wallan late last year, I have benefitted physically, mentally, and emotionally from the tranquil and peaceful area in which we now reside. I have been blessed with mornings of birdsong, fresh clean air, and beautiful sunsets for when I walk my dogs after work. It has been heavenly.

The quarry, which has been included on the PSP, will negatively impact on my wellbeing, the health of myself and others, the landscape, and the populations of native animals in this region. I am vehemently opposed to all quarrying activity outlined in the PSP.

Quarrying produces waste materials, which can damage water bodies around the area, such as dams, pools, and creeks found within the local area, contaminating them in ways that cause issues for plants and animals.

Dust produced during quarrying is a major contributor to air pollution. I understand that the amount of air pollution is dependent on the distribution of particle sizes, their exact chemical composition and the distribution patterns and concentrations of the particles that make up the dust. Humans and animals living in areas with high concentrations of dust (particularly particles 10 µm and smaller) are likely to inhale these particles, and have them end up deep within the lungs, causing respiratory issues such as pneumoconiosis and silicosis, which can be a complication for other medical issues (such as the now ever-present SARS-CoV-2), and exacerbating problems for individuals with other respiratory problems and underlying health issues. Dust can also harm plants, by blocking and damaging the internal structures of the plants, and through the abrasion of leaves and cuticles. Given the strong winds in this area of Victoria, it is likely that dust generated as part of the quarrying process will have negative impacts on people, plants and animals located a significant distance from the PSP.

Quarrying also comes with a high risk of soil erosion, even when efforts are made to minimise the potential of erosion. Erosion of soil renders the entire environment unsuitable for any other major projects that could benefit those living within the areas, such as future residential development, farming, recreational spaces, or conservation areas for native flora and fauna. Soil erosion also decreases soil fertility, negatively affecting crop yields. It also sends soil-laden water downstream, which can create heavy layers of sediment that prevent streams and rivers from flowing smoothly and can eventually lead to flooding. Once soil erosion occurs, it is more likely to happen again.

Damage to biodiversity is one of the major negative impacts of quarrying within the environment. Species such as insects, birds, animals, micro-organisms, reptiles, and invertebrates depend on nature to survive. Before quarrying, vegetation is removed, destroying the animal habitats, and reducing biodiversity. Animal habitats can be affected indirectly, and damages within the environmental changes can cause pollution of the surface water or groundwater, causing the place to dry out or become flooded. Lastly, the disposal and treatment of waste by-products can cause more negative impacts within the environment. The wastes can affect both ground surfaces, making it hard for people, plants, and animals to survive.

Living in a noisy place can create unhealthy noise pollution, and quarrying produces a lot of noise

due to drilling, the movement of multiple large and small vehicles, and potentially rigging rocks with explosives. Noise pollution makes the surrounding environments unbearable, disrupting the lives of humans and animals.

It's also likely that locals will experience changes in sleep patterns and increased stress levels, causing unpredictable health challenges, related to noise generated by and proximity to any proposed quarry.

Areas near quarrying often experience challenges with the infrastructure since the quarry activities can destroy road patterns, causing more congestion and traffic on the roads, especially within small communities such as Wallan. It is not uncommon to slow to less than 15 km/hr on the section of the Northern Highway coming off the Hume, and the addition of large, slow vehicles from the proposed quarry, will lead to vehicles having to queue on the Hume itself, an undeniably dangerous situation.

Mitchell Shire Council has already considered, and rightly, twice rejected the proposed quarry. We, the residents of this region, do not approve of, or support the proposed quarry. And, I hope, that soon I shall read and hear that the Victorian Planning Authority, and the Minister for Planning, have also rejected any and all quarrying activities in this region, now and in the future.

Wishing you all a safe, prosperous, and memorable holiday season,

Julia

Julia Freeman

Wallan, Victoria, [REDACTED]  
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