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**Subject:** RE: RE: Objection to Amendment C158 – Beveridge North West PSP  
**Date:** Sunday, 2 January 2022 10:48:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Dear Peter, Samuel and Laurie,

**RE: Objection to Amendment C158 – Beveridge North West PSP**

I am writing to submit an objection to the construction of a 30 year quarry at the entry to Wallan.

As a resident of Wallan and home owner, I chose this place to live for the beauty, tranquillity and growth offered at only 45 minutes from the CBD. The construction of this quarry will be detrimental to our town for the following reasons:

1. Pollution – Dust, Gases and other dangerous chemicals will be escaping the mining site directly into the surrounding residents' homes, lungs and services, therefore negatively affecting the health and wellbeing of any living creature, and the current fertile soil used to grow crops. This kind of poison will remain long after the mine is gone.
2. There is no infrastructure to support the current traffic congestion getting in, out and through Wallan:
  1. Even if an additional on and off ramp were implemented at the Wallan train station entry and exit, trucks in and out of the quarry would dangerously restrict movement at the southern end of Wallan as there is only one lane in each direction
  2. Currently it takes over half an hour to travel from the Hume Highway Southern exit into the Wallan town centre between 3:30 and 6:30pm. Even if the government finally provides the infrastructure to have an additional lane on both sides of the Northern Highway, it would not improve any congestion if large/oversized trucks take up a lane.
  3. Wallan's population is getting so large, that the demand for a swimming pool and other services is at a tipping point with the smaller surrounding towns already having services Wallan doesn't. Now council is finally moving forward with the plans for additional community facilities and services, their intended site is on the opposite side of the Northern Highway to the intended quarry. This will add more pressure to traffic congestion once implemented.
  4. Taylors Lane is important to reducing traffic in the centre of Wallan as the residents living up that road, including my Mother who I care for, or anyone else visiting, find it quicker to travel down the Northern Highway to and from Taylors lane, as opposed to using the narrow backstreets of Wallan. Taylors lane is a built up residential area and is reflected in the speed limit of 60km up that road. Should the entry or exit of the proposed quarry use Taylors lane to access either Old Sydney Road or the Northern Highway, this will impose additional unnecessary risk and further reduced speed limits affecting all residents and visitors using Taylors lane.
3. General safety of animals and humans – The development of a large community

facility directly across the road will only increase the risk to the safety of people and animals alike. For example, the community will be regularly attending and attempting to enjoy the facilities, whilst worrying about the pollution, noise and potential for their children or special need people to be physically close to the site, or even in the site if not supervised.

4. Noise – The noise from engine brakes, trucks and machinery etc will be excessive in our town. Furthermore, the noise from the required explosions to break up the ground should be in itself seen as completely unacceptable given the density of the residential housing surrounding the entire site.
5. The regular explosions and ground movement will cause damage to surrounding homes, not designed for earth movement or ongoing earthworks that can affect the ground stability. All residents could face losing their homes and no insurance company willing to pay to assist them in relocating or re-building.
6. The quarry will inhibit the population growth of Wallan and Beveridge and therefore services, land value and government funding for further growth. The proposal to have a quarry now is 50 to 100 years too late as the population is already here, with residential houses surrounding the area.
7. Water usage – Mining uses a lot of water. We simply do not have enough water via Yarra Valley Water, or ground water to sustain our residents, let alone a commercial mining activity. In addition to lack of supply, the water pressure in Wallan is terrible and sewerage services will also be put under additional pressure.
8. The water table below will also be affected both during and after the mining works are undertaken. This may cause flooding and poisoning of the water if it is not taken care of properly before during and after. Given the close proximity to residential housing and water use on surrounding farmlands, the risk is much higher than a mining site out and away from people.
9. Biodiversity of the land will be damaged not just for the 30 years of the intended land use, but has a massive potential to be indefinite:
  1. I am sure that the local indigenous community would be horrified at this proposal as it means that the population will continue expanding into surrounding bushland.
  2. If council are forced to re-zone surrounding natural bushland/home for residential development because the government decided the proposal could go through, various native and endangered plants and animals would lose their home
  3. The proposed quarry is proposed to be at a site that is already subject to a lack of water. The potential for any water to be contaminated with metals or acids are high
  4. the likelihood of uncontrolled discharge of waste rock is also concerning as this will damage the land and will be left destroyed long after the site is abandoned.
  5. Mining also can poison soil on and around the site, such as arsenic poisoning in soil. Should housing be built over the top after 30 years, people could die if they grow food in their back yards.
10. Wallan and Beveridge are in very dry and bushfire prone areas. If there are any spoiling piles (highly combustible) it does not take much to ignite. Again, with residential homes surrounding the site, with only a street between, this is a risk our community cannot afford to take again.
11. For the reasons outlined above, I believe there will be a huge decrease in land value

and overall positivity of the town – no one will want to live here and therefore none of us will be able to afford to leave as we will be paying for loans larger than what our homes will be worth. In addition, we would not have anything to leave our children if our homes have no value, or if the environment would make them too sick to live here.

Should you have any questions in relation to the above objection, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by email.

Kind regards,

*Alex McFarlane*



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