

Denise Mooney (VPA)

From: contact@engage.vic.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 8 December 2021 1:15 PM
To: amendments
Subject: Making a submission Form Submission



Making a submission Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Making a submission through your Engage Victoria website.

First name

Caroline

Last name

Farrugia

Postcode

████

Are you making this submission as:

An individual

Does your submission relate to an address within the Beveridge North West precinct?

Yes

Email

████████████████████

Daytime contact number

[REDACTED]

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RE: AMENDMENT C158 - BEVERIDGE NORTH WEST PSP

Application for a Basalt Quarry at 175 Northern Highway, Wallan, 3756

I would like to enter a submission opposing the above application.

The Mitchell Shire community have rejected this proposal. VCAT have also denied the application. However the proposal is still being considered by the Victorian Planning Committee. It greatly concerns me that Covid19 may have prevented anyone now charged with making this decision, from visiting this site in person. We are not just dots on a map, we are families and voters.

The proposed quarry will be within a couple of kilometres of new residential estates, schools and sporting centres. The dust, effects of blasting and the increased traffic will be dangerous for the local community.

Wallan is renowned for its intense winds that blow through, there is no way that the dust can be contained by trees and water sprinklers. Sprinkler systems fail, you only need to look around the perimeters of existing quarries to see the dust on the surrounding areas.

There are other areas away from established communities that can be quarried. The main reason behind the push for this location is to reduce costs for the owners. The cost to our community will be immeasurable. The damage to residents' health and safety will be enormous. Ask anyone living in the vicinity of a quarry such as this if the dust is contained within the "assigned area"?

The quarry is set to have a lifespan of at least 30 years, would it not be smart planning to plan for quarries further out, ahead of development, not place them in the midst of already established areas? This would do away with battles such as this, and they could be established ready for the growth areas. The companies will still make profits, but not at the expense of existing residents.

I would hope that recent Environmental and Health awareness could be good reason to reconsider the consequences of this plan. And to look toward a healthier and safer way of planning for quarries in the future. For instance the "National Dust Disease Taskforce" has been established by the Australian Government, Department of Health to investigate occupational dust diseases, this is a wonderful start, but the problem is wider than just the workers. Please don't ignore how scary this is for locals.

I work in healthcare, and Hospitals have been fighting to protect people from the Respiratory issues caused by Covid19. I see people struggling to breath, dragging their oxygen bottles with them. A local GP has stated that Wallan and surrounds have higher than average incidents of Asthma and Allergies already, as a result of how the wind travels through the valley. Why, in this day and age would we risk people's health in this way? Surely the health and safety of families should come before profits.

The local newspaper, NORTH CENTRAL REVIEW, Tues. Nov. 30, 2021, quotes Conundrum Holdings managing director Ron Kerr as saying that "our own shire is....wanting to deny jobs, opportunity and choice to local workers and families." This makes my blood boil. If this quarry goes ahead, apart from possibly a handful of jobs, the majority of the community will not be given a choice about inhaling silica dust, battling increased traffic and having their homes/investments devalued.

In the same issue of "North Central Review , " Conundrum Holdings" are already advertising for staff for the "North Central Quarry and Wallan Concrete Plant". This is proof of their arrogance and begs the question, have they already been given the "green light" for their venture (or at least believe so)? They obviously have no respect for the process. Is it not enough for them to have the concrete plant approved. (Appendix 2)

There are already several quarries in the surrounding area, the difference being that they were established prior to families building their homes nearby. Our local home owners did not know they were buying or building next to a quarry site.

This proposed location is higher than the surrounding residential estates, and the documented plan to "grow trees" to prevent dust travelling is completely unrealistic. Trees are not going to have more than a miniscule effect on controlling the dust, particularly with the strong winds that this area suffers between the surrounding hills. I have attached a copy of a Facebook entry from a Beveridge local, explaining her issues with the already existing quarry in Beveridge. It would be devastating to add another quarry to this area, along with the concrete plant. Unfortunately many residents such as this lady feel that they have no voice apart from Facebook. (Appendix 1)

Personally, I have children and grandchildren living in Wallan who will probably have to sell if this plan goes ahead. My elderly parents, in their mid 80's will also have to sell up and move, as my mother is already suffering with a respiratory condition and could not risk any exposure to this dust. They moved to Wallan to be close to family in a quiet and safe area (having survived the Black Saturday fires).

Due to Covid restrictions it has been harder than usual to gather as a community and be heard. I sincerely hope we can be heard.

Kind Regards

Caroline Farrugia.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Appendix 1: Taken from FACEBOOK. "Mitchell Shire Council" site 1/12/21

Been complaining for years to council about dust from Minton rd quarry that covers the primary school in silica dust. And you done nothing about it.

Everyone on tank water and dust settles on all the roofs. Don't act like u care. U done nothing at all for 5 years +.

Drive north on highway and u can see the massive dust cloud everyday coming out of that joint

Appendix 2:

Tuesday, November 30, 2021, NORTH CENTRAL & WHITTLESEA REVIEW /

Contact us on 5734 33

SITUATION VACANT



Conundrum Holdings delivers real jobs & local employment opportunities through investment in Mitchell Shire.

Join our workforce and benefit from our four-stage development, including North Central Quarry and Wallan Concrete Plant.

We are a local family owned and operated business, developing fresh choice and opportunity. We have a range of new jobs, with some positions requiring an immediate start.

ONE Processing Concrete Plant Manager

- Oversee the safe and efficient operation of the batch plant and manage employees in the processing area of work.
- Knowledge of 'COMMAND' batching software is essential.

ONE Leading Hand / Concrete Plant Sales Loader Operator

- Assist Management in overseeing the site, assist in sampling and load materials required for concrete mixes.

ONE Marketing Manager

- Undertake marketing duties to increase sales and enhance the overall company image.

FIVE Agitator Operators

- Deliver pre-mixed concrete to customer sites.
- Heavy Rigid licence required.

TWO Dispatch Officers/Operators

- Accepting, setting up and dispatching customer orders, including truck scheduling.
- Knowledge of 'COMMAND' batching software is essential.

ONE Plant Maintenance and Fabrication Employee (Apprentice)

- Undertake plant maintenance and fabrication duties.

ONE Laboratory Testing Officer

- Sample and test all components of concrete mixes ensuring it meets relevant specifications.

ONE Administrative Assistant

- Support senior management in daily administrative duties.

Applicants for all positions must display:

- The capacity and commitment to comply with company policies and documentation.
- Honesty, integrity, fairness and a positive attitude.
- The ability to actively participate and accomplish all required tasks and training in a safe manner.
- High personal hygiene and presentation standards.

How to apply

Job Descriptions can be provided upon request. A pre-employment medical (incl. drug screen) and a six-month trial period will be required for successful applicants. For more information on the application process go to www.conholdings.com.au/careers/ or email personnel@conholdings.com.au

We are proudly a smoke free site.

Re: AMENDMENT C158 - BEVERIDGE NORTH WEST PSP

Application for a Basalt Quarry at 175 Northern Highway, Wallan, 3756

We are writing to appeal to you as a representative of the people of Victoria to protect our local Wallan & Beveridge community from the health impact and various dangers of a planned quarry on our doorsteps.

The proposal would see 17 million tonnes of stone mined over 30 years. This is about protecting the health and futures of not just us, but our children and grandchildren.

The Plan PLP191/15 for 175 Northern Highway, Wallan has previously been rejected by the Mitchell Shire and VCAT, reflecting the feelings of the local communities which will be affected if this goes ahead.

The plan to establish a Bluestone Quarry between Beveridge and Wallan, just to the North of Melbourne, alongside the Hume Freeway is totally unacceptable in an era of fighting to protect lives from pollution and health hazards

Wallan & Beveridge are now part of a rapid growth area, on the outskirts of Metropolitan Melbourne. The proposed quarry will be within 2 km of high-density housing, largely young families trying to get a start in life, and many elderly residents already managing health issues. Apart from the close proximity to Residential Estates, it is also extremely close to several Childcare Centres, Wallan Secondary College, Sports Oval and the Community & Sports hub.

Dust/Health issues:

The dust will come from blasting, the crushing process and the loading and carting of the product. This area is already renowned as a high wind corridor and having above average cases of Asthma and Allergies. The positioning of this quarry between the two high density development areas will undoubtedly cause ill health within the communities.

Trucks will be transporting along the Northern Hwy, which runs through the centre of the town. This is the main access road for people heading to and from Melbourne using the Hume freeway. Yes, the trucks will have to be covered but the reality is that this type of dust cannot be safely contained within a moving vehicle. There is no safe level of exposure to this dust and the damage will be done before there is any proof of the invisible danger.

Structural Damage from Blasting:

The location of this development, so close to the high number of residential properties, will also, without doubt cause structural damage to the homes in the area. Many residents, particularly on the edge of the Wallan township closest to this area have already sold their homes due to their fears of the future. No one can afford to have their homes devalued for the sole purpose of company profits, with no concern for anyone else.

Increased Traffic:

Wallan and Kilmore residents travelling to and from the South will have to contend with increased heavy vehicles entering and exiting the Hume Freeway. The traffic congestion on the Northern Highway is already a problem, most afternoons from 3.00pm onwards traffic can build up back on to the Hume Freeway which is extremely dangerous already (not currently, during Covid restrictions).

The Secondary College, sports oval and community facilities are all accessed via the Northern Highway, therefore also increasing the risk to children and families using these facilities.

The quarry developers argue that this is a necessary facility to supply the surrounding developments. In fact there are already existing quarries of this type in close proximity, such as Donnybrook, Kilmore East, Epping and Wollert. This sight is being sought purely for their convenience and financial profits with total disregard for the impact on the surrounding residents.

Most existing quarries have been in place prior to any residential development nearby, meaning that home buyers are aware of their existence when purchasing their homes.

In this instance, we as rate payers of the Mitchell Shire, have had no prior knowledge of the possibility of a quarry being established in such close proximity to our homes. If anything, most people have been under the impression that this area was most likely to be developed as a shopping complex.

I would like to bring to your attention to the Facebook site. "Stop Wallan Quarry" which covers the community concerns.

Also, "A Current Affair" on Jan.15th, 2021 spoke to local farm owner, Mary Gilbo. - a quote from the story by Mimi Becker - "The planned quarry directly backs onto Ms. Gilbo's property and planning documents show a "Buffer" zone crossing over into her farming land"

"Mitchell Shire Council is seriously concerned that a proposed quarry within the Beveridge North West Precinct Structure Plan (BNWPSP) will destroy the overall planning vision of the region"

"Mitchell Shire CEO, Brett Luxford said if approved the quarry will kill the community and its way of life."

We find this situation deeply disturbing, and due to Covid 19 restrictions preventing gatherings etc. the community is still largely unaware of this proposal. Others believe it to have been stopped by Mitchell Shire and subsequently VCAT.

On behalf of the local community we would greatly appreciate your assistance in rejecting this application.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

Ray & Caroline Farrugia

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]