

Media Release

For immediate release
Monday 14 December 2020

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



Halt the quarry in Mitchell

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 for the region and will be catastrophic for the current growth of the community.

Council was blindsided by the BNWPSP Planning Panel's decision to recommend the quarry in an area which will house the next generation of communities and will deliver significant social, environment and economic benefits to the area.

Council is calling on Planning Minister Richard Wynne to reject the Panel's recommendation and is seeking explanation from the Victorian Planning Authority to interrogate how the Planning Panel arrived at its decision to support a quarry in the middle of a major family precinct - despite strong opposition from Council and external agencies.

The inclusion of the quarry within Beveridge North West PSP is contrary to the vision, design and plan which was shared with the community. The quarry is also against government advice from 2018 which stated the plan will proceed without a quarry. The quarry was a late addition to the PSP process and the State Government has failed to advertise that position to the Beveridge and Wallan communities.

Correct planning for significant community growth and investment presents challenges, however, a quarry would compromise all current planning strategies and compromise future investments and growth. It could also destroy land and property values for those families and investors who have called Mitchell Shire home.

The BNWPSP Planning Panel process was one of the most extensive, time consuming and costly planning processes Council has endured.

The process saw 18 parties represented at the Panel Hearing of which there were only three parties supporting the quarry proposal. These parties were the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Resources (DJPR), Conundrum Holdings (quarry operator) and the landowner.

The State Government must intervene. Council has not ruled out further legal challenges if the Panel's recommendation is supported.

Quotes attributable to Mitchell Shire CEO Brett Luxford

"Simply the quarry will destroy the amenity of our area and have profound impacts on the way our existing and future community will live in the region for generations to come," he said.

Media enquiries

communications@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Find us on social media



“Mitchell has a great sense of community and open space. Not mining explosions, heavy vehicle movements and reduced liveability standards.

“The Planning Panel’s recommendation to support a quarry will kill our community and its way of life.”

“Our Council adopts the approach of planning for healthy, connected and sustainable communities. This decision needs State Government intervention and we call on the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne to reject the flawed findings.

“Our growth corridor is already home to two quarries, one at Mount Fraser and a VCAT-approved quarry in Wallan East. We are seen as the dumping ground for quarries to service the needs of other parts of Melbourne.

“We urge Minister Richard Wynne to oppose the Panel’s recommendation and to ensure the land is to be used for its intended purpose – open spaces, protection of our natural sights and healthy, connected and sustainable residential communities.

“Mitchell Shire is Victoria’s fastest growing municipality as people choose to call the region home for its mix of beautiful landscapes, natural sights and accessibility to both Melbourne and Central Victoria. However, a long-term quarry would put this all at immediate risk.

“Alongside us at the recent Planning Panel were six highly regarded strategic planning experts who provided evidence to the Panel. All these people arrived at the same conclusion – that a quarry in this location would be fatal to the desired outcomes outlined in key State Government planning policy, PSP Guidelines and the PSP Vision for this area.

“We believe the VPA has substantial strategic justification to disagree with the Panel’s recommendation and to proceed with adopting Amendment C106 to the Mitchell Planning Scheme without the need to contemplate a quarry in this location.

“The BNWPSP is the single largest residential precinct in the Northern Growth Corridor of Melbourne and has the opportunity to showcase strong planning principles and deliver communities that are healthy, strong, sustainable and connected.

“This precinct is the next generation of master planned communities that can deliver significant social, environmental and economic outcomes to the benefit of the future residents that will one day proudly call Beveridge North West their home.

“In this context it is difficult to comprehend a use such as the proposed quarry located within the centre of the growth corridor having anything but a long-term negative impact on liveability.”

##ENDS##