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| **Agency** | **QUESTIONS SUBMITTED** | **RESPONSE** |
|  | **Hours of operation, blasting, vibrations, dust and house damage:** |  |
| ERR | **Hours of operation:**  What hours is blasting limited too? | Unless otherwise authorised or directed by an Inspector, blasting times are restricted to between 10.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday inclusive. |
|  | 1. Why can the rock crusher operate to 2200hrs generating noise across the community. If you have an early start for work, it is not unreasonable to expect to be able to sleep without this noise going so late 2. Does noise outside of designated operating hours fall under the "maintenance" loophole? There are machines beeping and rock-like noises outside of these hours. What evidence do you need to prove this is happening? Do we have to climb up to Trigg Point and record it ourselves? 3. How are Hanson allowed to work outside permitted hours? Secondly, these hours need to be reviewed for the increased growth in Rowville of residents and discomforted it causes 4. Why does Hanson’s Work Authority allow essential plant maintenance before 6am? 5. Why is ERR allowing trucks to enter the Boral site before the legal time of 6am? 6. Large noisy trucks attending the Boral Quarry as early as 5:26am when hrs of operation need to be obeyed. 7. Working hours need to be reduced to be in line and commensurate with the residential community expectations, a community filled with residential and community/public facilities within a matter of a few hundred metres, St Simons PS, Wellington Village Shopping Centre, local childcare centres, Wellness on Wellington Medical Centre, Heany Park Primary School, Heany Park Scouts Group, Churchill Nation Park, recommendation: Monday-Friday 7:00am to 8:00pm, Saturday 7:00am to 3:00pm, with the introduction of hard controls, time based boot gates and time based plant operations. 8. Hours of operation for the Hanson Quarry need to be reduced, as it is in a residential area. | Both quarries in the Lysterfield area are restricted in the hours they may operate.  These restrictions are from 6:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive, with the secondary crusher or processing plant on site able to operate until 10:00pm. There is also a provision that allows for essential plant maintenance outside of those hours.  The operating hours of a site apply to site operations including the loading and cartage of trucks from the site. Trucks can access the site outside of these hours provided they are in compliance with council requirements.  Noise from the site is permitted and will be heard in the community. This noise can include vehicles at the site such as staff arriving to prepare the site for operating hours, or staff finishing work after operating hours cease.  Where noise from the site might be linked to operations outside of operating hours, this may be investigated by Earth Resources Regulation.  Although non-compliance has not been identified, adherence to prescribed operating hours will continue to be monitored by Earth Resources Regulation for both quarry sites.  Should Hanson submit a Planning Application to, for example, extend the quarry, there will be an opportunity for community views of hours of operation to be expressed as part of the planning process, and for the decision maker to consider those views. |
|  | There is rock crushing at 10pm we have emailed audio to ERR but nothing changes. what is ERR doing to monitor this? | Earth Resources Regulation has reviewed crusher time operations (recently and in the past) and have found these to be compliant with start and finish times required under the approved work plan for the site.  There are occasions when the site may request permission to operate the quarry outside of the prescribed hours. These applications are considered on their merits and typically are for a short duration. |
| ERR | Boral opening time say 7am but trucks enter from 5:30am. | The loading and cartage component of truck movements is controlled and is only permitted for to operate during the hours of 6:00am to 6:00pm Monday through to Saturday. A site’s operating hours are applicable to onsite activities.  Trucks arriving at a site are subject to local controls for truck movements, remembering Wellington Road is an arterial road, designed to carry large volumes of traffic including heavy vehicles and Summit road is regulated by Knox City Council. |
|  | Why can't council push for ERR to revise hours?! We have all complained and is why we are here? | Councils cannot require changes to previously approved ERR site controls.  However, should Hanson submit a Planning Application to, for example, extend the quarry, there will be an opportunity for community views of hours of operation to be expressed as part of the planning process, and for the decision maker to consider those views. |
|  | How can I get SMS for quarry blast times? | You can sign up for SMS blast alerts via the Hanson website.  <https://www.hanson.com.au/about-us/regulatory-information/lysterfield-quarry/>  Refer ‘general information’ and select ‘SMS Notification Service registration form’ which you can fill out and submit. |
|  | **Blasting:**   1. Why can’t extraction take place without blasting? 2. What is happening with the blasting, this is damaging my pool pipework underground and my house. Due to the vibrations my upstairs floor all creek now and my pool pipework has been damaged and caused leaks which has cost and is costing me to be repaired. Why can't they do smaller blasts rather than one big one? 3. There is approximately weekly blasting occur at this quarry. Today particularly the blast was significant! Is it possible to use more a frequent but smaller blasting program? Currently and particularly today our home was shaken. 4. What other methods has the quarry investigated other than blasting? Why can't they excavate / mine the site? 5. The explosion of the quarry causes vibration and shakes the foundation and the structure of properties around the quarry as far as Churchill Park Reserves. Can this be stopped? if not expansion will cause more and greater harm to the environment and properties. 6. Ever increasing intensity of quarry blasts… 7. The explosion of the quarry causes vibration and shakes the foundation and the structure of properties around the quarry as far as Churchill Park Reserves. Can this be stopped? if not expansion will cause more and greater harm to the environment and properties. 8. the levels of blasting are way too high for the area, homes and destabilising of the surrounding land and the dust needs to stop happening 9. What other methods has the quarry investigated other than blasting? Why can't they excavate / mine the site? | The quarries in the Lysterfield area are hard rock quarries and this type of quarry uses blasting as a necessary part of operations to break up and extract large volumes of rock from the ground. Blasting noise and vibration will be heard and felt in the surrounding area and this is permitted provided blasting adheres to compliance requirements. Other types of quarries such as sand quarries do not require this method of extraction.  In the Lysterfield area, operators currently blast weekly, to achieve rock extraction and yield rates that ensure supply, but still comply with requirements.  Operators may elect to undertake smaller blasts however in that circumstance blasts would occur more frequently. Operators must still be compliant with noise and vibration limits regardless of a decrease or increase in blasting frequency.  Levels of blasting noise and vibration are controlled at both quarry sites and both sites routinely produce monitoring results lower that the current Australian standard.  Questions about methodologies, other than blasting, that may have been investigated by the operators should be directed to the quarry operators. |
|  | **Perceived damage to homes:**   1. What are the quarries doing to address damage to properties caused by their frequent blasts? 2. Can residences be compensated for the damage of their homes due to the quarry blasting? 3. Damage to homes - cracks and doors/windows do not align due to blasts. 4. How can you say blasting does not cause damage when we can feel our houses shaking? 5. We have already seen structural damage in our home that has resulted from the constant blasting, it is not due to the house shifting. How do we know that the houses are going to remain structurally sound? What compensation will there be if the houses develops serious structural issue? 6. If future studies prove blasting damages homes, I presume Boral and Hanson would cover repair costs? 7. What structural damage could occur to my property 8. Who is responsible for the damage caused to house? What level of liability the quarry operators have? 9. How is it that the quarry is not aware/acknowledges the structural damage the blasting is doing to surrounding houses? 10. We have already seen structural damage in our home that has resulted from the constant blasting, it is not due to the house shifting. How do we know that the houses are going to remain structurally sound? What compensation will there be if the houses develops serious structural issues 11. It is only common sense that continual blasting causes structural damage to the dwellings in the area. Where are the environmental impact studies conducting in Rowville over a 20-year period to prove no damage is done? 12. how will be compensate by Knox council and Hanson Quarry by the damage to homes if the Quarry is allowed to move closer to our homes. 13. How is it that the quarry is not aware/acknowledges the structural damage the blasting is doing to surrounding houses? 14. How long do i have to tolerate your excessive blasting which has damaged my house and driveways badly. | All allegations of property damage need to be referred to the party that a resident might feel is responsible for any damage.  Hanson has investigated matters regarding individual properties surrounding the Lysterfield Quarry in the past. Information from an independent engineering consultant regarding community questions around this topic is available on their website, should this be of interest. This document can currently be found at this location - <https://www.hanson.com.au/media/7027/terrock-report-re-community-blasting-queries-hanson-lysterfield-quarry-hcl-1908.pdf> |
|  | Details on how much longer operations will continue at the mentioned quarry. | Permissions for quarry operations last for the life of the resource. More information regarding the Lysterfield Quarries life should be directed to the quarry operators. |
| ERR | 1. What we have seen the monitors are not placed correctly for true indication of vibration, we as a community are simply not confident it’s correct 2. How are vibration levels measured - on the surface or at a depth below the surface? I assume the sensors are positioned in accordance with the relevant standards applicable to residential impact. 3. I have many cracks in and around my house, ranging from internal plaster cracks to concrete paving cracking. Besides the monitoring device that is placed in front of my house on the curb during blasts, what else are the quarries doing to measure the “real” effects of seismic vibration through neighbouring homes?   Comment: surely two large blasts twice a week year on year will impact structures to some degree.   1. As there has been no survey done on vibration damage from blasting over a period of more than 2 years, how can they be so certain that for the length of time we have been experiencing vibrations that it is causing no damage? 2. It is only common sense that continual blasting causes structural damage to the dwellings in the area. Where are the environmental impact studies conducting in Rowville over a 20-year period to prove no damage is done? | Blast monitoring is conducted across various locations surrounding the Lysterfield quarries (including residential properties). The monitoring is conducted by external engineering consultants who are qualified and experienced in this work and who use the necessary equipment needed to gather monitoring data for blasting events.  Earth Resources Regulation has reviewed the blast monitoring practices of the engineering consultant undertaking this work engaged by Hanson Lysterfield. No issues of concern have been identified with the company undertaking the monitoring, the blast monitoring instrumentation, or methodology.  Operators may elect to do smaller blasts however they would occur much more frequently. Alternatively, fewer blasts would mean bigger blasts. Operators must still be compliant if they increase their blasts frequency or size. The blasting regime might be something the community would like to discuss with operators in the event an alternative regime could be agreed.  The consultant’s report produced for Hanson Lysterfield in response to community questions and is available on the Hanson Lysterfield Quarry website covers some important points related to vibrations and structures. The report reviews monitoring data from 2018. This information is in addition to the blast monitoring data shown on the Hanson website for 2019, 2020 and more recently. The report contains information on building impacts from ground vibration and reports on the local Rowville ground conditions. It also estimates failure rates for some typical building materials. |
|  | 1. Are the explosions safe, what effect does it have on the subterranean structure and on the structural integrity of the surrounding houses? 2. We have constantly been able to feel the blast vibration causes by the quarry operations. Are there any information or investigation on the level of impact on the building structure and underground base structure? We residents need to be well informed. | Helpful information in answer to these questions is available in the Terrock engineering consultants report produced for Hanson Lysterfield in response to community questions. The report is available on the Hanson Lysterfield Quarry website. |
|  | 1. How independent is the capture and analysis of the blasting data? 2. Barry indicated an independent company conducted the reports on behalf of Hanson. If they are engaged by Hanson, how are they independent? Shouldn't this be referred by the authorities, rather than engaged by Hanson to avoid conflict of interest? 3. Who is paying the independent surveyors??? If it’s Hanson, then it’s not independent!! 4. Are the instruments used to measure blasts calibrated by a registered "independent" authority? How do you assure us of the authenticity of the readings? 5. How independent is the capture and analysis of the blasting data? | The company that does the blasting, noise and vibration monitoring is an independent engineering consultant company.  The company is suitably qualified and experienced in undertaking this work and uses the necessary equipment needed to gather monitoring data for these blasting events.  It is common that this sort of monitoring is undertaken by companies like this. Earth Resources Regulation has reviewed the blast monitoring practices of the engineering consultants undertaking this work engaged by Hanson Lysterfield and no issues of concern have been identified with regard to the blast monitoring instruments use or methodology. |
| ERR | Why do the authorities insist the old limits of blasting, noise, dust cannot be challenged when people report unacceptable disturbances? | The Hanson-Lysterfield Quarry has a blasting vibration limit of 10 millimetres per second, and a blasting noise limit of 120 decibels.  The 10 millimetres per second rate applied to the Lysterfield Quarry is an older standard for blasting limits.  Earth Resources Regulation has reviewed data from the blast monitoring for Hanson-Lysterfield since 2019 and results show that 100% of blasts are below the more recent Australian standard of five millimetre per second for vibration, ( the standard that’s applied to new blasting approvals), and that 97% of blasts are less than three millimetres per second.  Monitoring data from both sites has been reviewed and found compliant with requirements. |
| ERR | With the quarry operations being in very close proximity to residential housing, by what reasoning does ERR consider the blasting, dust pollution, and environmental damage acceptable to impose on the community. | Earth Resources Regulation undertakes compliance activities in line with relevant legislation and standards set by the relevant authorities, for example, the Environment Protection Authority for noise and air pollution. |
|  | What is the impact on the wildlife, kangaroo population when the blasts are happening? | We are not aware of any significant adverse impact on native fauna from blasting noise and vibration in the surrounding area. |
| ERR | **Dust monitoring:**   1. What is being done to reduce the amount of dust and the air pollution from the quarries we are experiencing? 2. What can be done to limit the exorbitant amount of dust that comes from the quarry? I continuously wiping down dust inside and outside my home. It is definitely not healthy to be breathing in. 3. Your reply to constant dust issues please. 4. What is being done to reduce the enormous amount of dust and dirt that is currently covering our properties and cars every day and how is this going to be reduced with the expansion? This dust is what we are breathing in when we are outdoors and also when we have to clean out properties. 5. We have lived in our house for 16 years and never experienced dust like it. All our outdoor furniture, patio and deck are covered with dust even when we open our windows you can smell the dust 6. Further to my earlier question, we receive a significant amount of dust to our yard and home. Can better dust control be employed? 7. After 18 years living in Lysterfield the last two years has been the worst I have seen in this time with weekly efforts now required to remove dust from my pool cover my decked areas and outdoor entertaining settings. Is this due to quarry extensions more quarry activity? What more is being done to minimise dust? If there is that much dust being cleaned up in my yard what studies can you show me that the airborne dust is not a health issue? 8. Are they going to do my washing when my clothes get soiled by the airborne dust??? 9. Dust is a massive problem for houses like mine bordering Wellington Rd. Do you do enough to control this? 10. What more is going to be done to minimize the dust problems in the nearby neighbourhoods and from Trucks travelling Wellington Road? 11. Why is there Dust and Mud on Wellington Road, when a Wheel Washer was commenced in Sept 2020 by the Hanson quarry? 12. Establish “real time” dust monitoring stations located within the residential communities and public spaces, to be established and controlled by ERR and EPA, data collected and analysed by ERR and EPA and the results be made available to nearby local communities and public and community and commercial establishments. Furthermore, it is requested that an analysis of dust levels within residential properties to be completed by responsible authorities now, backyards, outdoor living areas, possible points of entry – windows, doors etc. 13. Why does EPA say they cannot look into the Dust and noise pollution? That it is regulated by ERR only? | Both quarry sites have dust suppression systems in place through water carts and fixed water spray systems on stockpiles to control dust.  Both quarries are required to monitor the dust produced by their operations. Measurements are taken at the boundary of the site and assessed monthly to limits set by the Environmental Protection Authority Victoria. Both quarries comply with the limits set.  Onsite and offsite dust monitoring gauges at the Hanson Lysterfield quarry have shown that the site is compliant with dust limits for all monitoring locations adjacent to the community.  Both of the Lysterfield quarries have wheel wash facilities designed to be used to reduce l material from the site being dragged onto Wellington road. The Hanson Lysterfield site has augmented its wheel wash to clean truck sides and currently requires all trucks to use this wheel wash when exiting the site. Both sites contribute to a street sweeper on Wellington Road.  The Department of Transport manages the arterial road network in accordance with its Road Management Plan. Regular inspections are undertaken to identify any potential hazards to road users and appropriate maintenance is carried out to ensure the road network is kept in a safe condition. |
|  | 1. Can you please explain the blast limit criterion of 10 mm/s? 2. Can you provide a real-world situation of what a 10mm/s blast would feel like? People need something to compare what they are feeling IN their homes | The Hanson-Lysterfield Quarry has a blasting vibration limit of 10 millimetres per second, and a blasting noise limit of 120 decibels.  Although the 10 millimetres per second rate applied to the Lysterfield Quarry is an older standard for blasting limits, Earth Resources Regulation has reviewed Data from the blast monitoring for Hanson-Lysterfield since 2019 shows that 100% of blasts are below the more recent Australian standard of five millimetre per second for vibration which is the standard that’s applied to new blasting approvals, and that 97% of blasts are less than three millimetres per second.  At 10mm/s windows or cups may rattle in houses nearby. |
|  | What would you do if you live a few metres away from the quarry, continuously blasting, smell of diesel from trucks, dust (not normal dust), smell of the explosion materials? Plus, the damages in our houses (breaks, concrete, windows....)? | If you feel your house is being damaged as a result of quarry activities, please discuss with the party you feel is causing the damage.  Quarry activities are authorised and permitted to be undertaken, and some impacts will be noticed beyond the work authority boundary.  Should Hanson submit a Planning Application to, for example extend the quarry, there will be an opportunity for the community to raise their views around impact on amenity as part of the planning process, and for the decision maker to consider those views. |
|  | Cleaning gutters, there are large quantities of crushed rock in gutters and storm water drains from the quarries through to the on ramp of East Link.  large downpours are likely to result in flooding and will endanger road users of Wellington Road | DoT regularly inspects the roads to ensure they are well maintained, and both quarry operators contribute to a sweep sweeper for Wellington Road.  Drainage impacts on Wellington Road from rocks from the quarry may be considered in any application that may be put forward by Hanson to extend the quarry. |
|  | 1. Has anyone from Hanson, ERR, EPA, Knox Council ever visited anyone's home & witnessed the "actual" blasting & its effect on our homes? It's all good & well for Hanson to state their blasts are well within blasting range - sounds good in theory, but in reality, it's definitely not the case. 2. would suggest that quarry representatives should visit residents to experience what they are feeling in their homes. | Earth Resources Regulations inspectors have, and continue to, visit the Lysterfield area to conduct inspections.  The quarries in this area have been found to be operating within the required blasting requirements.  The Hanson Community Reference Group includes some residents in close proximity to the Quarry who provide direct feedback to the quarry operator. |
|  | It is requested that the current Community Reference Group (CRG) be abandoned and a new CRG be established with the ERR, EPA, DoT, Worksafe and other responsible authorities being responsible for its establishment, defining the Terms of Reference, its ongoing operation, as I believe that the current CRG does not genuinely represent the Rowville and Lysterfield communities, whereby the members should be residents and/or business operators within Rowville and Lysterfield, e.g. St Simons PS, Wellington Village Shopping Centre, local childcare centres, Wellness on Wellington Medical Centre, Heany Park Primary School, Heany Park Scouts Group, Parks Victoria, Knox Environment Society, DoT, ERR, EPA, etc. | Membership to the Hanson Community Reference Group is reported by Hanson to be open to new members and those who live, work or have an interest in the quarry may be able to attend meetings to discuss quarry related matters. Visit the Hanson website for more information: <https://www.hanson.com.au/about-us/regulatory-information/lysterfield-quarry/> |
|  | The vibration levels mentioned are for current operations. Once planning approval is given to blast within 400m, surely these vibration levels will significantly increase? | This may be assessed in the application made by Hanson to vary the planning permit for the site as part of the extension process.  Should Hanson submit a Planning Application to, for example extend the quarry, there will be an opportunity for the community to raise their views around impact on amenity as part of the planning process, and for the decision maker to consider those views. |
|  | Why does Knox City Council say they cannot do anything about the Dust, Noise, and hrs of operation? When all the issues are regulated by ERR? | Earth Resources Regulation has a leading role in regulating these aspects of quarry operations within the work authority while Knox Council establishes controls through the planning permit for the site. |
|  | **Truck movements and Wellington Road** |  |
| DoT | 1. Will the owners / operators of the quarry take responsibility for the reckless actions of the truck drivers who travel up and down Wellington Road heading to and from the quarry entrance who disobey road rules - especially Red / Amber lights as this will lead to a serious accident / possibly fatalities at some point. 2. Red-light cameras need to be installed to catch red light running fully loaded quarry trucks west and east along wellington rd and also the turning lane north on stud rd | These issues are enforcement matters for the Victoria Police. The Department of Transport has forwarded the community concerns to the local Highway Patrol Unit of Victoria Police and requested that appropriate enforcement be undertaken. If any community member sees any dangerous driving on the road, they are encouraged to report to Crime stoppers on their hotline, 1800 333 000  There is a road safety camera located at Wellington Road/Stud Road intersection. Camera locations are determined by a committee chaired by Victoria Police with representation from Department of Transport, and Department of Justice and Community Safety. Department of Transport will work with this committee to explore opportunities to install road safety cameras. |
| DoT | 1. What is the council/VicRoads doing to protect the local community on the roads? There is a constant stream of semi-trailers from early in the morning until early evening, these trucks are often driving recklessly and there have been many near-misses on Wellington Road. There is no 40kph zone in the vicinity of St Simons Primary School and this is concerning.   In addition, our roads are breaking up and in dreadful condition from the constant heavy vehicles. 2. What can be done about the speed on Wellington Road? 3. What can be done to reduce the speed of trucks travelling along Wellington Road to 60kmh past the Wellington Village shopping centre and several school crossings and child care centres before a major catastrophe occurs. | Wellington road is an arterial road and has been designed to carry large volumes of traffic including heavy vehicles. The movement of heavy vehicles on this part of the road network is essential so that goods can be transported efficiently to support economic growth.  Department of Transport regularly inspect the road and carry out required maintenance works to ensure the road provides for safe driving condition for all the road users.  Department of Transport is in the process of reducing the speed limit to 60km/h during the school peak times and installing electronic speed limit signs by Sept 2021 in the vicinity of the school.  Any speeding and dangerous driving on roads are enforcement matters for the Victoria Police. If any community member sees any dangerous driving on the road, they are encouraged to report to Crime stoppers on their hotline 1800 333 000. |
| DoT | What claims do we have on the quarries from damage to our cars from stones, dirt and mud on Wellington Road? Broken windscreens, stone chips & dents. Currently we have to wear the cost of this damage. | A person who has suffered personal injury or property damage due to the condition of a road may be entitled to compensation from the responsible road authority, for Wellington Rd the Department of Transport is the responsible road authority. For more details follow the link:  <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/about-vicroads/acts-and-regulations/notice-of-incident> |
| DoT | 1. What can be done to better manage the dirt dust that the trucks are shedding as they go? 2. What can be done about the dust created on Wellington Road? 3. Mud on Wellington Road from quarry trucks in the winter make this road unsafe (can’t see markings). Dust on Wellington road make marking hard to see, street sweeper struggles to keep up 4. What can be done about the dust and gravel constantly being dropped from the trucks onto the road? 5. Wellington road is caked in quarry dirt more so in the last two years than I have ever seen. The truck cleaning before exiting the site is clearly not working as well anymore perhaps with the huge increase of truck activity. What more is being done to keep the road and my car clean when travelling Wellington road? 6. What more is going to be done to minimize the dust problems in the nearby neighbourhoods and from Trucks travelling Wellington Road? 7. Dep of Transport says they can only help by telling the Quarry to clean up the Dust on Wellington Road, what else can the dept of Transport help towards as they have reported that to the Quarry many a times before. | The Department of Transport manages the arterial road network in accordance with its Road Management Plan. Regular inspections are undertaken to identify any potential hazards to road users and appropriate maintenance is carried out to ensure the road network is kept in a safe condition.  Both quarry sites contribute to a street-sweeper vehicle that cleans along Wellington Road, and both sites have been asked by Earth Resources Regulation to ensure site practices prevent drag-out of mud and debris to Wellington Road.  Both sites have wheel wash facilities, and these have been upgraded at the Hanson Lysterfield Quarry and are planned to be upgraded at the Boral Lysterfield Quarry.  These wheel wash facilities aid in removing mud and debris from vehicles when they are leaving the site in wet weather, this reduces the chance for materials sticking to tyres and being dragged out onto Wellington Road. |
| DoT | 1. Do you have any control over the trucks coming to & from the quarry as they are a menace at times taking up all lanes along Wellington Rd creating congestion issues at peak times? 2. The last thing is trucks congesting roads in peak work and school hours. can the truck operations be restricted to non-peak hours? 3. Why can’t a quarry traffic be diverted to dedicated road through Churchill park to freeway and thereby reducing congestion, threat of accidents and safety of community 4. There are a significant number of Kenworth trucks with open exhausts that can be heard for miles, travelling to and from the quarries. Why is there no action to pull them into line? 5. The establishment of Electronic Variable School Speed Zones on Wellington Road, adjacent St Simons Primary School. Such a speed zone is already in operation along Stud Road, near Avalon Rd/Turramurra Drive, on which a School does not directly abut but rather provides for a safe crossing point for students of nearby Rowville Primary and Rowville Secondary College. This is necessary for the most Vulnerable Road User Groups, School Aged/Based Pedestrians. The fact that is not already operations, since EVSSZ, have been in place for many years is unacceptable. This relates to slowing Heavy Vehicles from the quarries along with other commuter traffic during school drop-off and pick-up times. | Wellington road is an arterial road and has been deigned to carry large volumes of traffic including heavy vehicles. The movement of heavy vehicles on this part of the road network is essential so that goods can be transported efficiently to support economic growth.  Being an important arterial road, having truck restriction is not a practical option.  Churchill Park Drive is managed by Council. It is up to Council and quarry owners to decide whether this is a practical route for the trucks to access the freeway. Wellington Road being an arterial road is designed to carry large volume of traffic, including trucks, and Department of Transport has no objection for the same.  Department of Transport is in the process of reducing the speed limit to 60km/h during the school peak times and installing electronic speed limit signs by Sept 2021 in the vicinity of the school. |
|  | 1. What traffic modelling has been conducted to forecast and assess the impact of the quarry expansion and increased traffic movements along Wellington Road? If this has not been undertaken to date, when will it be and will you provide an assurance that results will be transparently released to the local community?      1. How are they going to manage the increase traffic? | Currently, no planning application has been made for quarry expansion.  If a planning application is required for expansion, Knox City Council will refer the application to the Department of Transport.  The Department of Transport expects to see traffic modelling as part of any application – this is something that will be requested as part of the application, to determine the impact of traffic from the quarry on the road network and to mitigate any impacts.    The Department of Transport will then determine the traffic management requirements at that stage. |
|  | 1. From Boral to stud road the road for motorcycle riders is totally unsafe how is this being addressed? 2. Wellington Road surface is in an appalling condition. When as the last time you drove the road? 3. Wellington Road, is in parts in poor to very poor condition, particularly the inbound left lane is severely deformed particularly between Napoleon Road and Dandenong Creek, logically as trucks are full as they exit to unload in a city-bound direction, and generally return empty, with less load/weight and stress on the road pavement. Ironically, both Boral and Hanson, own and operate Asphalt Companies, so they could actually get paid to fix the damage they are causing. | The Department of Transport has carried out extensive resurfacing work along Wellington Road.  As of mid-2021 the section between Gearon Avenue to Silkwood Way, and from Clauscen Avenue all through to Tirhatuan Drive, city bound, is resurfaced. Outbound, the section between Clauscen Drive and Silkwood Way is resurfaced. And in addition, the city bound section between Stud Road and EastLink is also resurfaced. |
|  | Large downpours are likely to result in flooding and will endanger road users of Wellington Road. | The Department of Transport manages the arterial road network in accordance with its Road Management Plan. Regular inspections are undertaken to identify any potential hazards to road users and appropriate maintenance is carried out to ensure the road network is kept in a safe condition. |
|  | **Expansion** |  |
| ERR/Knox | 1. I want to know what impact reporting and due diligence is been undertaken when assessing the extension of the Hanson Quarry?   *We are already suffering with impact demand to our homes, weekly blasts we are suffering, the traffic congestion and safety with the trucks speeding and running through red lights plus the environment factors with both the animals - kangaroos, wallabies and foxes moving into our residential areas and main roads. We need all factors just not financial. Green wedge is damaged. It needs to stop* 2. The building of the concrete plant, noise and dust levels are extremely frustrating. This was going to have no environmental impact, it does the professionals got it wrong, are we going the see the same failures with any future expansion push? 3. How much dust/noise is this going to cause? 4. Hanson would like to expand their quarry into the local green wedge. The green wedges are perceived as Melbourne's lungs.   This green wedge helps protect Churchill National Park, Lysterfield Park and forms part of a green belt for wildlife connecting through to the Dandenong Creek Green Belt. Replacing land from the green wedge with land elsewhere does not bring back the unique environment, including flora and fauna, of this area. What is being done to protect this green wedge from being damaged and eroded by the muted expansion? | When applying for any extension to a site, operators must prepare a work plan variation application.  The work plan variation application must identify any relevant hazards and/or risks associated with the proposed expansion and eliminate or minimise these risks as far as reasonably practicable. This includes providing robust technical reports or studies to demonstrate this.  At a minimum, the work authority holder is required to demonstrate that they can comply with the relevant standards, such as those set by the Environment Protection Authority for noise and air quality and standards set by the Earth Resources Regulation for blasting impacts (including ground vibration, airblast and flyrock) which are designed to protect property, public safety and public amenity.  In addition, it is expected that the assessment of a planning application, which forms part of application process, should consider the potential impacts of the proposed extension on the amenity of the area, the environment, as well as economic impacts. Planning policies such as maintaining the Green Wedge area are also relevant. |
| ERR | 1. How can we be sure the proposed quarry expansion is not going to cause further damage to our homes?   *My house currently shakes and rattles whenever there is a Hanson blast and this can only worsen with the quarry expanding closer to homes.* 2. My house shakes like it’s in an earthquake whenever the quarry does a blast. Expanding closer to homes is not going to be good for the structure of my home. Already have plenty of cracks. 3. The blasts are getting bigger and affecting my home, what are the devastating effects of the blasting if Hanson are permitted to move close to our homes 4. How will be compensate by Knox council and Hanson Quarry by the damage to homes if the Quarry is allowed to move closer to our homes. 5. My biggest concern remains whether further expansion of the quarry activities is going to further negative impact on the building and underground structure. Some damages are invisible but cause long-term problems. So we object to any expansion of the quarry operations. 6. what structural damage could occur to my property 7. The blast are getting bigger and affecting my home, what are the devastating effects of the blasting if Hanson are permitted to move close to our homes, | When applying for any extension to a site, operators must prepare a work plan variation application. This application will need to demonstrate that the operator has eliminated or minimised risk as far as reasonably practicable.  This includes setting suitable standard for vibration limits from blasting that are protective of sensitive receptors, which includes the neighbouring residential properties and undertaking monitoring to ensure compliance with those standards.  If you feel blasting is damaging your home, you should contact the party you feel is responsible for the damage. |
| ERR/Knox | Why was there no wide community consultation advising residents of the proposal to amend the Knox Planning Scheme that will enable the Quarry to be expanded, and the life to be extended for another 25 – 30 years, having a detrimental effect on the lives of residents. e.g. letterbox drop, advertising, specific council meetings with residents. | Community consultation has not taken place at this time regarding a possible extension to the Hanson Lysterfield Quarry as no planning application has been lodged with Council to extend the quarry.  Major changes to a work plan, such as an expansion to a site, generally requires a planning permit to be approved by the local council or in some cases, the Minister for Planning. The community will have an opportunity to express their views in relation to an application through the planning permit process.  The public will be informed when, and if, an application is submitted to Council. (Noting the possibility that the application could be determined by the Minister for Planning, which would mean that Council has no role in processing or determining the application and instead it is managed by the Minister for Planning – if this occurs community consultation will still be conducted). |
| ERR | The area where the expansion takes place contains significant local indigenous vegetation and therefore wildlife. What will be done to protect their future?? | Where a quarry application includes a proposal to remove native vegetation/habitat, the proponent will need to undertake an ecological assessment (by a suitably qualified practitioner) of the disturbance area to determine the potential impacts and calculate the required biodiversity off-sets for the project.  As part of the Statutory Endorsement process for a work plan/variation application, Earth Resources Regulation must refer the application to referral authorities specified in the planning scheme in accordance with the section 77TE of the *Minerals Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*.  For native vegetation removal, Department of Environment Land Water and Planning is a referral authority as set out in the Victorian Planning Provisions 66.02-2.  Native vegetation that will not be removed as part of the project (i.e. areas adjacent to the disturbance area) will need to be considered as part of the risk assessment for the site and appropriate control put in place to protect these areas for the duration of the operation. |
| ERR | 1. How far is the quarry extending and if it is visible from residential side what to the residual area affected?   Currently the view to the east and south east of Golding Avenue is a tree covered hill with the edge of the quarry visible on the ridge line at the top of this hill. If the proposed Hanson Quarry expansion proceeds what will be its impact on this view? 1. Will the edge of the quarry move down the western slope of this hill? 2. To what extent will the trees on the western slope of this hill be cleared? 3. How much of the hill’s height will be removed? e.g. Will the hill become a hole the ground instead of a hill? | Community members have an opportunity to view details of a proposed quarry extension should an application proceed to the planning permit stage. Earth Resources Regulation cannot approve new quarries or changes to existing quarries until the responsible authority (i.e Council or Minister for Planning) has confirmed that the necessary planning approvals have been granted. |
|  | Clearing of Trees and Habitat, is a threat to the Ecosystem by both quarries? | The clearing of trees is permitted for the extraction area under current approvals for both quarries and as extraction of stone progresses within the current permitted extraction area more vegetation will be removed.  It is important to remember that rehabilitation at both sites requires backfilling and revegetation of these areas consistent with the final rehabilitation form of the sites. |
|  | What education is Knox council going to be given when the application is lodged? So that all people voting on this matter understand the complete depth of the issues impacting the community so can raise suitable objections in good merit? | Community members will have an opportunity to view the details of the proposed quarry extension should an application proceed to planning permit stage.  For a significant proposal such as quarry expansion, the public notification requirements are likely to be quite wide and may include:   * A mail out will take place wider than just the adjoining properties. * Signs will be required to be erected on the site. * public notices in local newspaper.   All advertising documents will include details of the proposal such as accompanying plans and expert reports which are available online via the Knox Council website.  This means that interested people can examine the documents and the proposal in their own time without having to visit the council offices.  It should be noted that in September 2020, the Hanson Quarry on Wellington Road, Lysterfield was included on the State Government’s Extractive Industry Priority Projects List.  Sites on the State Government’s Extractive Industry Priority Projects List may request the Minister for Planning call in the planning application once it is lodged with council.  After considering the request the Minister for Planning may call in the application. If the application is called in all council processes will immediately cease and the file and all the information will be passed to the Minister. The application will then be determined by the Minister for Planning, not council, and any decision by the Minster for Planning is final with no eligibility to appeal through VCAT.  More information about the State Government’s Priority Projects List is available on the Earth Resources website: <https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/projects/extractive-industry-priority-project-list> |
|  | What is clause 52.08? | Clause 52.08 is one of the clauses in the Knox Planning Scheme, which specifically applies to proposals regarding ‘Earth Industries’, which includes quarries.  It’s a specific clause that Knox City Council considers when a quarry extension application is lodged.  Clause 52.08 of the Planning Scheme will be highly relevant to any future planning application considered. |
|  | 1. Was the removal of the Public Acquisition Overlay in 2018 specifically done for quarry expansion? 2. With the removal of the green overlay a few years back linked to Darren Peirce’s motion in 2018- it states that residents were consulted prior to this happening. This is not the case, other than a few handpicked on the Hanson residence committee. How can the EPA and ERR and Knox council help us reinstate the overlay back to protect the residents' heath as well as protect natural hills behind our houses? | The Public Acquisition Overlay that applied to a portion of the Hanson site was removed by Amendment C182 on the 11th of October 2019.  The decision to approve the amendment, as well as the decision not to advertise the amendment, was made by the Minister for Planning in the State Government.  It is understood that the Public Acquisition Overlay was removed as Parks Victoria had determined it no longer intended to acquire the land. Unless Parks Victoria decide they wish to acquire the land in the future, it is unlikely that the Public Acquisition Overlay will be reinstated.  The Environment Significance Overlay and the Significant Landscape Overlay both apply to the Hanson Lysterfield Quarry and both are to be considered when determining any future planning application for the site. |
|  | Recently I noticed that explosions are very heavy and long shaking and creaking my walls. Is the quarry expanding. What is the limit? | Monitoring data for blasting from both sites has been reviewed and found compliant.  The Hanson-Lysterfield Quarry has a blasting vibration limit of 10 millimetres per second, and a blasting noise limit of 120 decibels.  The 10 millimetres per second rate applied to the Lysterfield Quarry is an older standard for blasting limits. Earth Resources Regulation has reviewed data from the blast monitoring for Hanson-Lysterfield since 2019, and it shows that 100% of blasts are below the more recent Australian standard of five millimetre per second for vibration ( the standard that’s applied to new blasting approvals), and that 97% of blasts are less than three millimetres per second. |
|  | Please provide maps and renders of the quarries at various time horizons (current, 2025, 2030, 2040, and at point of remediation) to visualise the impact of the quarry expansion for residents. Also provide 3D images showing visual impact on hillside from key views and vistas in Rowville and Lysterfield. | Community members will have an opportunity to view the details of the proposed quarry extension should an application proceed to planning permit stage. Earth Resources Regulation cannot approve new quarries or changes to existing quarries until the responsible authority (i.e Council or Minister for Planning) has confirmed that necessary planning approvals have been granted. |
|  | **Silica / health** |  |
| EPA | 1. Is silica dust generated by the quarry's operations? Have the levels of airborne silica dust been tested by the EPA in the suburbs surrounding the quarry? 2. Have there been any test conducted on the air quality in the surrounding area and has silica been tested for? | To date, results of silica dust monitoring undertaken by consultants on behalf of these quarries have been compliant with criteria specified in the Protocol for Environmental Management: Mining and extractive industries (EPA Publication 1191- 2007).  EPA and ERR’s primary focus regarding dust is prevention - to prevent harm due to any dust generated at the premises, regardless of its size and nature. Work authority holders are required to eliminate or minimise risks posed to the environment, members of the public, land, property or infrastructure as far as reasonably practicable and sites must have adequate controls in place to prevent offsite pollution. As part of any expansion/work plan variation, dust studies are undertaken.  Incidents of health effects from exposure to silica tend to occur in the workplace; these are regulated by WorkSafe Victoria. As such most studies about health impacts due to silica focus on workplace exposures. If you are concerned about your health due to exposure to dust, you should consult your local doctor.  It should also be noted that Publication 1191 states that respirable crystalline silica requires control to the Maximum Extent Achievable (MEA) due to the seriousness of the potential health effects associated with exposure to it. Publication 1191 then adds that MEA goes beyond best practice and considers what can be done on a site-specific basis rather than an industry wide scenario. This amount is less than the precautionary limit of **20 ug/m3** as an 8-hour time-weighted average recommended by WorkSafe Victoria (2021) for employees at risk, to prevent silicosis and minimise the risk of lung cancer. |
|  | Since Boral have opened the concrete recycling plant opposite Allamanda Blvd we would like to know the risks of Silicosis as this dust must fly around in the air? | The risks of silicosis will depend on the amount of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) present and likelihood of exposure to this silica over time that could cause silicosis. Incidents of health effects from exposure to silica tend to occur in the workplace; these are regulated by WorkSafe Victoria. As such most studies about health impacts due to silica focus on workplace exposures. If you are concerned about your health due to exposure to dust, you should consult your local doctor. |
|  | The science about crystalline silicates have been proven a lot more toxic so why these limits are still stuck in 1979? | It is not clear which 1979 limit is being referred to here.  EPA Publication 1191 (2007) *Protocol for Environmental Management: Mining and Extractive Industries*, gives an assessment criterion for mining and extractive industries for respirable crystalline silica (as PM2.5) of **3 ug/m3** annual average. Here, this value is said to have been adopted from the California EPA Office for Environmental Health Hazard Assessment Reference Exposure Levels (OEHHA 2005). |
|  | What is the effect of the silica dust on adult/children's health? | Silica dust is 100 times smaller than a grain of sand and is harmful when inhaled into lungs. Significant exposures to silica dust can lead to lung cancer, silicosis (irreversible scarring and stiffening of the lungs), kidney disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Such effects will depend on the amount, duration, and frequency of exposure and the health of the person being exposed. Incidents of health effects from exposure to silica tend to occur in the workplace, where the potential for exposure is highest. |
|  | Health risks - quarry dust & silica particles can cause harm for those with breathing issues. | Symptoms of those with breathing issues can become worse if exposed to significant levels of dust and/or respirable silica particles. Incidents of health effects from exposure to silica tend to occur in the workplace; these are regulated by WorkSafe Victoria. As such most studies about health impacts due to silica focus on workplace exposures. If you are concerned about your health due to exposure to dust, you should consult your local doctor. |
|  | 1. What are health implications re : Dust 2. What will the dust do to our health? 3. Is the dust detrimental to human health? 4. What will the dust do to our health? | Health implications of dust depend on the level of exposure, dust source, particle size, and chemical and microbial content. Health effects can include coughing, wheezing, and irritation to the eyes and upper airways. People most sensitive to dust exposure include infants and young children, people with respiratory conditions (e.g. asthma, bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and people with heart disease. For these sensitive groups, exposure to airborne dust may trigger allergic reactions and asthma attacks, cause serious breathing-related problems, and contribute to cardiovascular or heart disease or a reduced life span.  Human health risks from dust exposure increase with:   * Outdoor activities at or near dust sources * Duration and frequency of exposure to a dust event * High speed winds in a dusty area.   Low dust levels are considered ‘safe’ and not harmful to people. They can, however, impact amenity which can adversely affect wellbeing, especially for some sensitive individuals. |
|  | 1. How do we know that there are no negative health outcomes from the silica dust that is expelled into the air? Where are the scientific studies to prove no ill effects result to human lung function? 2. How do we know that there are no negatives health outcomes from the silica dust that is expelled into the air? Where are the scientific studies to prove no ill effects result to human lung function? | While we cannot confirm that there are no negative health outcomes from the silica dust expelled in the air, preventative measures by the polluter and monitoring the air will help manage and determine the likely risk of such outcomes occurring. The Cancer Council (Australia) states that Australia has set a mandatory limit for silica dust exposure of 100 ug/m3 averaged over an eight-hour day. If this limit is not exceeded, the risk of negative health outcomes to those exposed is expected to be low. |
|  | 1. Silica dust settle on our homes and in the air, what is the detrimental effect to our lives. | Any effect from silica dust settling on homes and being present in the air will depend on the extent of exposure to this dust. Such exposure may be impacted by strong winds blowing towards sensitive areas. |
|  | 1. Has there been any studies to provide information on the potential harm of breathing the excessive concrete dust in the area? 2. Has sufficient research been carried out regarding the effects and spread of Silica dust? 3. Can we be provided with any studies done in the neighbouring residential areas on the effect of airborne dust and silica levels and specifically the comparison to what is deemed within healthy levels or standards? | Concrete dust can contain large amounts of sand, such that breathing excessive amounts has potential to cause harm like that caused by exposure to silica particles. The incidents of health effects from exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) tend to occur in the workplace.  Most of the available published research about effects and spread of silica dust relate to occupational exposures. The effects and spread of silica dust will depend on the likelihood of exposure.  It is understood that Hanson has undertaken some monitoring of airborne dust and silica levels in the vicinity of its quarry between November 2018 and February 2019 and reported results against relevant standards. Dust monitoring studies will be submitted to ERR as part of any quarry expansion plans. |
| EPA | Does ERR consider the currently allowed closeness of quarrying activities to residential area acceptable now that there is more evidence of adverse health effects with silicon dust pollution and excessive noise. | Environment Protection Authority guidance to decision makers for off-site residual odour and dust (EPA publication 1518) recommends a 500m separation distance between sensitive uses (e.g. residences) and activities that generate 'respirable crystalline silica' in quarries. Guidance allows for the appropriate separation distance to be varied as a result of site-specific operational or environmental conditions, as long as such reductions in separation distances are supported by a detailed assessment. |
| EPA | Are the council and ERR aware of the health issues associated with living close to the quarries, especially asthma, hearing loss, mental health? | For information about health and the environment, see <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/environmental-information/environmental-public-health/your-health-and-the-environment> |
| DoT | Is there monitoring of small particle and other pollutants at the corner of Stud road and Wellington road. With expansion comes more pollution from truck traffic. | There is no monitoring station at this location |
| EPA | So, the EPA doesn’t monitor levels of air pollution? | See <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/monitoring-your-environment/about-epa-airwatch> for information about EPA’s air monitoring program |
|  | 1. The question is will there be air monitoring in Rowville not Dandenong?  2. A recent test was conducted in NSW about the air quality of surrounding homes can this be done in Rowville & Lysterfield. especially as the quarry is so close to homes, schools, childcare and aged care? | See <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/airwatch> for air quality monitoring locations. EPA is rolling out a major initiative to monitor and report on air quality in regional Victoria. At this stage EPA is not planning to establish a permanent air monitoring station in Rowville. For updates please see  <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/news-media-and-updates/news-and-updates/epa-launches-regional-air-sensor-pilot-program> |
|  | You say dust levels are monitored and within limits. As a resident directly along Wellington Rd I would have to say it is getting worse and would hate to see what it would be like out of these limits. How often is this checked? | The Hanson Lysterfield Quarry monitors dust deposition gauges monthly at a number of monitoring stations around the property, with many positioned along the western side of the site between the quarry and the community to the west. |
|  | **Operational compliance** |  |
| ERR/EPA | 1. What will authorities do at the Hanson site to introduce permanent independent controls that address breaches of work hours, excessive truck movements, and compliance with dust, noise, and blast levels? The below 3 facts indicate that Hanson has an inability or unwillingness to fully address the concerns of residents – so they cannot be relied on to self-regulate, and their Reference Group loses credibility:  - They continue to operate under a Planning Permit issued in 1999 (despite significant residential growth) - They don’t have a transport clause in their work plan 385 - They don’t hold an EPA licence. 2. It is understood that the nearby Boral quarry has an EPA License, why does the Hanson quarry not have one, and it is demanded that before any application for expansion be considered, the Hanson quarry shall be required to obtain an EPA license to operate. | Current controls apply to the site’s current activities and the site, like other quarry sites across Victoria the Lysterfield quarry sites are required to demonstrate compliance through site monitoring and reporting. To date, information provided does not provide grounds for any imposition of additional independent monitoring.  EPA assess and issue works approvals and licences when there is an environmental discharge into surface water for a quarry, such as from the Boral site. This is not applicable to the Hanson site as they do not discharge into surface water from the quarry. |
| ERR/ Knox | To curb any of the well-cited disturbances on the outside environment, it will invariably require stricter controls within the site; so, what action will be done to update the Work Authority and Planning Permit (1999), independent of the proposed Hanson expansion? It is negligent that the quarry has been able to operate without scrutiny for the past 10- 20 years, despite significant subdivision approvals that have exhausted the distance from the quarry since Work Authority, and the (1999) Planning Permit were last updated. | The comment regarding the operation of the quarry since 1999 is noted. It is relevant to note that Planning Permits are not able to be 'updated' in the same way that a Work Authority can be. Once issued planning permits generally are not amended, unless a change is sought by an owner/occupier of the land affected.  It is of course expected that any new Planning Application lodged will be considered in the context of the current surrounding area. |
|  | **Rehabilitation and environment** |  |
| ERR | Rehabilitation of quarries in the area - landscape impacts at the moment are destroyed. | Quarry operators are required to undertake rehabilitation of the land following cessation of quarrying activities, in addition to progressive rehabilitation throughout the operations life. As part of the development of the work plan/variation, the operator must prepare a Rehabilitation Plan for the site. |
| ERR | How will resulting pollution & environmental damage including disruption to habitats of the flora and fauna be addressed? How will damage to homes as a result of blasting be addressed? | Both sites are required to operate within relevant legislation and to undertake site rehabilitation as agreed.  All allegations of property damage need to be referred to the party a resident might feel is responsible for any damage. |
|  | Why did Hanson Quarry not permit our Ecologist to enter the site to carry out an independent Ecological Assessment report? If this expansion goes ahead there will be a significant impact on the flora, fauna habitats and biodiversity loss. | Private property can only be entered with landowner permission or other authority that permits entrance. This question should be asked of Hanson. |
|  | How can the use of offsets, even of the same Ecological vegetation Classes be of any use to the health and benefit of the Knox Environment? | This question is best placed in any planning permit process should that eventuate and this be an aspect of the application or a requirement of the proposal. |
|  | What systematic public reporting is available for the environmental performance of the Hanson and Boral quarries? | The Hanson Website contains information on site monitoring - <https://www.hanson.com.au/about-us/regulatory-information/lysterfield-quarry/> |
| ERR | The obvious destruction of surrounding hills. I invite you to take a drive down wellington road and see the scarring across the hills in the distance. It used to be so picturesque. What is happening to our wildlife and the environment? How can it ever recover? | The current quarry operations are permitted to remove vegetation as part of the excavation process to access the stone resource at the site. Site rehabilitation and final landform ensures the sites are returned to safe, stable and sustainable landforms. |
|  | 1. Why was the Public Acquisition Overlay, that restricted the Quarry boundaries, removed by Parks Victoria, enabling the Quarry, if permit approved by ERR, to extract within 400 metres of residential housing. 2. With the removal of the green overlay a few years back linked to Darren Peirce’s motion in 2018 - it states that residents were consulted prior to this happening. This is not the case, other than a few handpicked on the Hanson residence committee. How can the EPA and ERR and Knox council help us reinstate the overlay back to protect the residents' heath as well as protect natural hills behind our houses? | The Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) that applied to a portion of the Hanson site was removed by Amendment C182knox on 11 October 2019. The decision to approve the amendment and not to advertise the proposal was made by the Minister for Planning in the State Government. It is understood that Parks Victoria no longer intended to acquire the land. Realistically, unless Parks Victoria decide they wish to acquire the land in the future it is unlikely that the PAO will be re-instated.  The removal of the PAO will have no impact on buffer distances or the assessment of a future planning application. |
|  | How did the Green wedge get removed? | A Green Wedge is a term used to describe land on the outskirts of Melbourne, with controls to prevent encroachment of urban development. The perception is that the areas are rural, but the planning controls do allow other uses.  The green wedge has not been removed.  This question may relate to the Planning Acquisition Overlay which has a question and answer elsewhere in this document. |
|  | What consultation was done with the community prior to the removal of the Planning Acquisition Overlay | The Planning Acquisition Overlay (PAO) that applied to a portion of the Hanson site was removed by Amendment C182 on the 11th of October 2019.  The decision to approve the amendment, as well as the decision not to advertise the amendment, was made by the Minister for Planning in the State Government and we cannot comment on those reasons other than to say it wasn’t a council decision to not advertise.  It is understood that the PAO was removed as Parks Victoria has determined that it no longer intended to acquire the land, and realistically unless Parks Victoria decide they wish to acquire the land in the future, it is unlikely that the PAO will be reinstated. |
|  | **Buffer zone** |  |
| ERR | 1. Why was the separation distance reduced to 400m from 500m when it should have been increased given houses got built in close proximity? 2. how has the proposed expansion allowed to go to 400 metres we believed it was minimum 500? what affect will this have on my house moving closer if granted 3. Why has the Boral quarry been allowed to expand within 280m of residential housing along Wellington Road? 4. How close to house will the quarry be? 5. Why Knox City Council give a permit to build while they know that there's a quarry just cross the road (a residential area)? 6. Given my understanding that the buffer zone of the quarry and residential housing is supposed to be minimum 400m ( recommended by EPA 500m) and must be contained within the boundary of the quarry land, how is it that the buffer is currently being measured utilising KCC land and privately owned land which should not be possible. 7. EPA buffer Distance is 500m, why is Hanson Quarry allowed to expand 400m? 8. ERR please confirm that the current permitted separation distance of 400 metres is being maintain by way of independent licenced surveyor, engaged by ERR. Based on “nearmap” it appears that the current operations as close as 300 metres from the nearest private property boundary. | The 500m Buffer zone related to guidance (through EPA publication 1518 – Recommended separation distances for industrial residual air emissions) from the EPA in regard to industrial sites and recommended minimum separation distances between industrial land uses that are odour and dust emitting and sensitive land uses.  The 500m buffer zone is not an absolute requirement and can be varied when planning applications are determined depending on the circumstances, and the advice received, particularly from the EPA.  In the case of the Hanson Quarry, houses are located closer than 500m from the quarry extraction limit on the western side of the quarry. The background to that outcome is Amendment C147 to the Knox Planning Scheme, which was approved by the Minister for Planning in March 1999. That amendment allowed for residential development within 500m of the extraction limit.  In this case, residential development proposed by residential land developers has been permitted within the 500m quarry buffer, despite the quarry objections at the site. As a consequence, development was permitted to encroach the buffer zone rather than the quarry expanding closer to residents.  Determining the buffer: The distance from the boundary of the activity, which in this case has been identified as the limit of extraction, is to land within a residential zone. The buffer can include land that’s not owned by the quarry, such as council owned land that’s not in a residential zone. |
| Knox | Hanson’s plans to expand their quarry towards homes on Reservoir Crescent will result in the elimination of buffer zone land and decapitation of a hilltop.  What was the function of the original buffer zone? What is the calculated effect of the removal of the hilltop and the closer proximity of blasting and general quarry operations to homes?   I also note that Lot 5A, a privately held parcel of land bordering the Hanson quarry, will now have a zero buffer and in fact have quarrying operations on their fence line. Why has the Hanson application to expand progressed when the council and regulators are fully aware of the detrimental impact to this neighbouring private property? | The recommended separation distances for industrial residual air emissions under the EPA guidelines in publication 1518 are 500 meters for quarrying with blasting. This guideline applies to dust emissions and is guidance for decision makers and applicants and are not necessarily the same as threshold distances listed in the Victorian Planning provisions.  An application under the Planning and environment Act 1987 has yet to be made to vary the existing site planning permit in order to permit any proposed extension to the Hanson Lysterfield Quarry. |
|  | **Other** |  |
| ERR | 1. How many years more this operation will continue? 2. When will the quarry close n land will be reclaimed | Work Authorities are issued for the "life of the resources" meaning until the rock source is depleted. The time this takes will depend entirely on the rate at which the rock is extracted and sold. A site must also be rehabilitated and returned to a safe, stable and sustainable landform before an operation is considered complete. |
| ERR | What is the formal process of complaints and feedback regarding community impacts from quarry operations?  Who are the quarry sites accountable to from a management of community negative impact/complaint perspective? | Please direct your enquiries as follows:   * Quarry operations (onsite only) or work plan approval processes contact Earth Resources Regulation. Contact us: <https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/about-us/contact-us> * Land use and planning enquiries contact Knox City Council on (03) 9298 8000, by email to [knoxcc@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:knoxcc@knox.vic.gov.au) or visit the Knox City Council website at www.knox.vic.gov.au * Land and water concerns beyond the site, you can call the Environment Protection Authority, on 1300 372 842 or email the EPA at this address -contact@epa.vic.gov.au * Road conditions and related safety concerns please contact the Department of Transport or Victoria Police for any alleged road offences. * For road hazards that are urgent and present an immediate danger, call 13 11 70. * For other road issues that do not present an immediate danger (such as faded line marking, small potholes or fallen signage) please follow the link if you wish to [report a road issue](https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue). Or the same location here <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue>   Reporting a driver engaging in high-risk or anti-social behaviour- visit the [Crime Stoppers website](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.crimestoppersvic.com.au_&d=DwMFAg&c=JnBkUqWXzx2bz-3a05d47Q&r=RjSwJZGQPaTjuVU__f2jXfAhs1Z5C-18r6X5TiYHzd4&m=f1xCFffo8jnyTRU6qGSIzPcRdbu9z0QL9U7hyjyya48&s=_3_gB17P-45_2UxyInxGP-eBik--7zvGRXtDVZ6Z0NQ&e=)or call their Hoon Hotline on 1800 333 000. Reporting a driver speeding  contact Victoria Police on 131 444 or visit Victoria Police website <https://www.police.vic.gov.au> |
|  | 1. Hanson is operating under terms and conditions that are more than 20 years old. Some of the terms and conditions for all other similar operators in Victoria and Australia have changed considerably over this time though Hanson claims what they are doing is legal under the old legislation.   An example is how big a blast Hanson is allowed during quarrying operations. Current legislation is that a blast can only be at half the limit Hanson Quarries allow themselves. The lower limit seems to be what is standard in many first world countries overseas. If you are driving a car and the traffic limits change from a higher speed to a lower speed are you still allowed to drive at the high speed because it was legal before?  The community close to the quarry has grown, the quarries have grown and want to expand even more. What is being done to ensure the quarries operate within current legal limits and within current community expectations?   1. Vibration limit is 10mm/s, Australian standard is 5mm/s, why is Hanson and Boral Quarry allowed to blast at 03.65? would this not cause damages to homes and to our environment?   Re-establish the ground vibration levels of the blasting to human comfort levels as described below. Based on AS2187.2-2006, and supported by ANZECC publication it appears that the long term regulatory goal for the control of ground vibration is 2mm/sec (ppv). Can you please provide long range records to confirm compliance. Nevertheless, the blasting ground vibration should be considered in light of human comfort levels, the fact that the home-owners is close proximity to quarry can feel it and feel it regularly that windows shake, furniture and fittings rattle, it is causing residents great anxiety and stress as home-owners have identified a progression of damage to their properties. I refer to extract from documents quoting the British Standard 5228.2-2009 as it relates to human comfort.  Establish vibration monitoring stations, within close proximity 0-400 metres of quarry operations/boundary) located within the residential communities and public spaces, to be established and controlled by ERR and EPA, data collected and analysed by ERR and EPA and the results be made available to nearby local communities and public and community and commercial establishments.  It is requested that ERR and other responsible authorities establish a campaign to inspect property damage of nearby residential buildings at no cost to the property owner to establish the origins of the damage. Again, the blasting ground vibration monitoring and reporting is self-policing. I believe that the recording and management needs to be independent from the quarry operator and overseen by government / regulatory agencies. Furthermore, consideration should be given to establishing permanent vibration monitoring stations within the local community and enforce independent monitoring within residential dwellings because it is within the confines of the buildings that the real effects of the blast-ground vibration is being experienced. Blasting and ground vibration is the most critical aspect of the quarry operation which needs to be scrutinised thoroughly by the EPA or other regulator Government agencies and results published on EPA, Hanson and Knox City Council websites. | The Hanson or Boral Quarries are permitted to blast at a level below 10 mm/s. They currently typically achieve a level less than 3 mm/s (from the 2019/2020 data), which is significantly below that limit and well below the current Australian Standard of 5 mm/s.  Earth Resources Regulation regularly checks compliance with quarry blasting noise and vibration limits at both the Lysterfield quarry sites.  Claims of damage to properties needs to be discussed with the party who property owners feel is responsible for any damage.  Also as discussed in the presentation there is a useful engineering consultants report on this topic on the Hanson website <https://www.hanson.com.au/media/7027/terrock-report-re-community-blasting-queries-hanson-lysterfield-quarry-hcl-1908.pdf> |
|  | Why does Knox Council mislead residents that each quarry blasts once per fortnight, when for years now, both Boral and Hanson have blasted once per week, and at times twice per week, at least double what Council believe is happening. | Knox Council has not sought to deliberately mislead residents. Comments regarding the frequency of blasting were based on officers understanding at the time. |
| ERR | How can 2 massive quarries established in 1979 and 1986 at a time when the area was pretty much unpopulated allowed to continue unfettered in an area now densely populated. | Permissions for these operations have changed over time. Current site operations are approved under the relevant current legislation. |
| ERR | Have there been any case studies done where this method of quarry mining has been conducted at such a close distance of dense residential area in Australia?  If yes, are you able to publish such documentation for our reference?  If no, what has been done to reduce the impact on the environment and residents in the area? | Each quarry is unique, and Earth Resources Regulation takes into account the site specific setting to ensure that risks are eliminated or minimised as far as reasonably practicable. |
|  | Australia is a big country. Why these companies have quarries close to houses? Why they don't have them in the middle of Australia? | While Australia is big, not all of Australia has the resources we need. Quarries need to be situated near where the resource is found.  It is also an advantage to have quarries close to cities where the resource is needed. As time goes on and cities grow, residential properties get closer to quarry sites. |
|  | 1. There is grass growing out of storm water drains which proves no cleaning is taking place 2. Weeds on both Sites need to be addressed. | Both quarries have contractors undertaking weed control on their sites. As we are not certain about the specifics of this question, further enquiries on this matter should be directed to Knox City Council. |
|  | Why is Boral Quarry allowed to expand into the National Park or the edge of the Churchill National Park? | Parliament through the Extractive Industries (Lysterfield) Act 1987 allowed this quarry to establish in its current location within the park. |
|  | 1. What is the expiry date of the current planning permit and/or work authority? What is the left expectancy of the Hanson quarry under the current planning permit and /or work authority? 2. If the Hanson Quarry Extension is approved, what will be the new expiry date for the operation of the quarry? | 1. There is no expiry date on the planning permits, the permits remain current while the permitted activity is occurring. Work Authority approvals under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 last for the life of the resource or until relinquished or revoked.  2. The requirements of a future planning permit will be determined when the application is decided (by Knox Council, VCAT or the Minister for Planning). |
|  | What is the Bench slopes Stability at both Quarry sites, are they safe? | To date, inspections have not raised non-compliance issues for this aspect of quarry operations. Earth Resources Regulation will continue to monitor this. |
|  | Based on the Plan included in the October 2019 CRG Meeting, it appears that the separation distance of 400 metres, (let alone the recommended 500 metres) IS NOT WHOLLY CONTAINED within the Hanson property boundary. At the most south-western point of the proposed extension, the pit/works area will be approx 70 metres from the Hanson property boundary; therefore a SEPARATION DISTANCE OF 70 METRES. One can only assume that the proposal is based on the use of land OUTSIDE the Hanson property as credit towards the separation distances. It is understood that the land that is used as credit towards satisfying the separation distances is owned by Knox City Council and private landowners. It is noted that the land is located outside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). I object to this proposal, for the following reasons. The UGB is subject to change, the Knox City Council land may also be subject to re-zoning or sold, as parcels of Council land are regularly sold for various reasons. By allowing the land not owned by Hanson to be used as credit for separation distance, prejudices the future development and re-zoning of the land. This is contrary to community expectations, in that neighbouring developments should not prohibit the development of your land and restrict its future use. | Comments are noted, however should be provided as part of the planning application process. |
|  | **Questions for operators** |  |
|  | 1. How do Hanson intend to mitigate the diminishing air quality of those directly surrounding the fall out zone?   Would Hanson be prepared to install carbon air filters, and residential dust minimisation systems (ie, free fliyscreens to catch half the dust) into the homes where layers of dust sediment fall inside the home? Or are they happy to wait for someone to go full scale Erin Brockervitch on them?  Mitigation would be cheaper in the long run and less damaging to their business, while making them look like they care...and we can have some clean air.  I doubt free weekly car washing will be provided, or that they will pay for cleaners in houses where people have mobility challenges.  Ethics. 2. What safety measures are included in your training for truck drivers? | These questions should be directed to the relevant quarry operators. |
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