

Yarra Ranges Council Statement on Montrose Quarry

In early May, Resources Victoria announced the approval to extend the Works Authority for Montrose Quarry, located on Canterbury Road, Montrose. This approval by the State Government aligns with the current planning permits.

CURRENT PLANNING PERMITS:

- **E/47:** Permits quarrying and crushing stone, and erection of necessary buildings and equipment.
- **E/2222:** Allows for quarrying, crushing, storage of stone products, and related ancillary works.

WHAT COUNCIL KNOWS:

Boral has confirmed that the approval pertains to their existing quarry footprint and is consistent with their current planning permit and Works Authority (Licence). It does not involve significant further expansion at this time, however it does include a minor expansion of the pit to the north and some slope configuration and stabilisation in the northwest corner.

Boral, the owners of Montrose Quarry, are considering a potential expansion of the pit within their site. They have met with Council officers and State Government representatives to share their early work on the proposal.

The quarry is a key supplier for the new Boral Batching Plant at Bulleen, which will support significant State infrastructure projects, including the North East Link and Lilydale Line level crossing removals.

Boral intends to discuss the expansion proposal further with the Council, including a briefing for Councillors.

The expansion proposal would require several approvals, including a Ministerial planning scheme amendment, which requires approval by the Minister for Planning. It is unlikely Council will be involved, when Boral are engaging in a state planning process.

The proposal could be processed through the State Government's Significant Economic Development streamlined planning process, which is enabled by a State provision in the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme. This process prioritises and facilitates projects that significantly contribute to Victoria's economy and public benefits, including job creation.

Boral has had preliminary discussions with the State Government about the planning process required for the expansion and has committed to continue discussions with the Council as the project progresses.

WHAT THIS MEANS:

The current operational changes include:

- A small expansion of the pit to the north with minor slope modifications and stabilization in the northwest corner.
- Increasing the depth of the final pit floor level by 8 meters (from RL27 to RL19) to match existing conditions.
- No changes to the rehabilitation concept and end use as detailed in the approved rehabilitation plan.
- No review required for the community engagement plan.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

1. **Council's Role:** Council is unlikely a decision-making role in this process due to new State provisions for significant economic development projects. In 2004, a similar expansion request by Boral was not supported by the Council, but new State provisions may fast-track the current proposal, limiting Council's role and community consultation.
2. **Community Involvement:** While the State process does not require community consultation, the Council strongly encourages Boral to engage with residents.
3. **Approval Clarification:** The recent approval is a works authority for the existing quarry footprint, not a streamlined expansion approval under the State Government's Significant Economic Development process.

For further information and updates, community members are encouraged to stay informed through the Council website.