

# Montrose Environmental Group inc.

Regn. No. A0018558J

PO Box 7, Montrose, Vic. 3765 Phone 9728 5841

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**Media Release by Montrose Environmental Group Inc**  
**For immediate release**  
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## **MONTROSE vs QUARRYVILLE?**

The local community is angered by the latest proposal to expand the Montrose Quarry.

“Enough is enough,” said Kim Wormald, President of Montrose Environmental Group (MEG). “Boral's EES has confirmed our worst fears. Significant forest would be destroyed and residents would suffer many more years of dangerous air pollution, blasting and noise plus a massive quarry face scarring the foothills of Mt Dandenong.”

Local residents have been battling quarry expansions since the mid 1960s and hope that the EES process will finally put an end to the dust, noise and blasting.

On Tuesday 7 August Kim Wormald and Dr Graeme Lorimer made a presentation to Council outlining “insurmountable” legal reasons why Council should refuse to exhibit this proposal. Dr Lorimer, an environmental scientist specialising in flora, fauna and air quality said, “Boral's EES documentation shows that the expansion does not pass the first hurdles of regulatory compliance and protection of human health”.

In June 2004 about 200 local residents attended an EES Scoping Workshop and expressed concerns about the health of people living, working and attending schools around the quarry.

The Environment Protection Authority specifies a buffer distance of 500m based on air pollution and the use of blasting. There are already around 1,000 residents, a primary school and an aged care facility within this boundary. The proposed expansion would extend the buffer into even more homes, and create greater air pollution during removal of soil and overburden. The effects on the community would continue for twelve or more years beyond the life of the current pit.

MEG has a number of experts currently studying the EES documentation and say they will have plenty of ammunition should this proposal ever go to a panel hearing. MEG has requested that Council propose an alternative amendment to ensure that the threatened land is protected under the Planning Scheme.

Cr Len Cox said, “The presentation by MEG was very well thought out and professionally delivered. I admired the amount of work put into it by the presenters.”

Councillors and Shire Officers will be studying the EES documentation over the coming weeks and expect to hand down a decision in October or November.

Kim Wormald said, “Now is the time for residents to write to Councillors, local MPs and the Planning Minister imploring them to protect our health, our homes and our environment by putting a decisive end to Boral's expansion proposal”.

**For further information please contact:**

**Kim Wormald**

President, Montrose Environmental Group  
9761 9914

**Dr Graeme Lorimer**

Technical Adviser, Montrose Environmental Group  
8711 3454

**David Dobson**

STOP Montrose Quarry Expansion  
9728 3550

Top: View of the current pit taken from Mt Dandenong.

Bottom: Digitally enhanced photograph depicting expanded pit - an horrendous sight and an end-use logistical nightmare.

