

Montrose Environmental Group inc.

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Media Release by Montrose Environmental Group Inc

For immediate release

14 November 2007

Hundreds of cheering residents packed the Shire of Yarra Ranges Council Chambers on 13 November 2007 as all nine Councillors raised their hands against Boral's proposal to expand Montrose Quarry.

"Boral may have more gravel but the community has more grit" smiled Kim Wormald, President of Montrose Environmental Group (MEG), following the Councillors unanimous decision to reject Boral's proposal.

"It's truly heartening that residents have refused to be worn down despite decades of fighting," said Ms Wormald. "My congratulations to our small, united community for having the tenacity to fight a major multi-national corporation". She praised the volunteers who worked tirelessly to keep themselves and the community informed.

Cr Monika Keane informed the gallery, including Paul Hillyer, general manager of Boral Metropolitan Quarries, that the preparation of documentation does not mean that the proposal automatically warrants exhibition.

Cr Len Cox referred to Minister Hamer's call, in 1966, for the quarry not to expand and added, "The quarry's continued existence has become increasingly inappropriate". His comment that, "I may be old fashioned but I believe that people are more important than profit" was met with enthusiastic applause.

Mayor Tim Heenan, Councillors Samantha Dunn, Jeanette McRae and Noel Cliff took the opportunity to speak against many of the impacts associated with the proposed expansion, including endangered flora and fauna, health effects, noise, blasting and visual amenity.

"I think Boral will have a hard time if, as expected, they try to persuade Planning Minister Justin Madden to intervene and resurrect the expansion proposal," said MEG's Technical Adviser, Dr Graeme Lorimer. "Firstly, there is the emphatic decision by Councillors; secondly, the carefully reasoned advice by Council staff to drop the expansion proposal; and thirdly, the overwhelming level of opposition from the electorate."

There was a party atmosphere following Council's decision but also a commitment, as expressed by Mr McCrorey, President of STOP, that the community "will not rest until this proposal has been finally defeated at the highest level by [our] elected representatives in State Government".

For further information please contact:

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