

Submission opposing The Cabbage Tree Road Sand Quarry

Dear Ms Leeson, Mr Duncan and Mr Cochrane

I am writing to add my voice to the opposition expressed at the Planning and Assessment Commission's meeting on Monday. After attending the meeting and hearing the overwhelming number of negative issues raised by the speakers I don't envy you the task of making the final decision. People spoke from the heart about how the establishment of a sand quarry so close to their homes would severely damage their lives. Undoubtedly there will be additional dust (probably contaminated), truck movements, noise and property devaluation. It was pointed out many times that people in the area are facing enormous ongoing strain, uncertainty and disadvantage. In this David and Goliath battle we are desperately hoping you will find in favour of the "underdog."

The sand to be mined is a commodity in ready supply in more appropriate locations away from homes. If it was a vital resource in short supply and difficult to source I would not object so quickly to the project, but that is not the case, so surely it is not necessary for it to be mined so close to where people live. I have only lived in Williamstown for 3 and a half years so haven't had very long to build up the surprising level of the fire fighting contaminants I have in my blood. Living as close to the quarry site as I do I am fearful of the increased dust that will result being a pathway to even higher levels in the future.

Once the project goes ahead realistically guidelines that have been set to mitigate any negative effects on residents will not be monitored, and there won't be any successful action we can take to fix problems that arise. Under normal circumstances we could "sell up and move away" but as you know that option isn't really available to us.

In making your final decision I am hoping you give weight to the social and health impacts on residents, as these factors don't seem to have been particularly important to the Department of Planning when they recommended it be approved.

Many thanks

Julie Curry – [REDACTED] Cabbage Tree Road, Williamstown