# **OVERVIEW AND GENERAL COMMENTS**

We write as concerned citizens because, although Hanson expresses commitment to *respect, transparency, and communication* their actions are in contrast to this and why we seek to ensure protection of our community.

We are seeking to participate to the greatest extent possible to represent our community's interests. Our aim is to ensure the EES process and community involvement is timely and rigorous.

We welcome the standards set in Hanson's recently released Community Consultation Plan (CCP). It is expected that Hanson will meet ALL its stated aims and commitments including *'Commitment… Integrity… Respect… Transparency…. Inclusiveness….. Trusting Relationships…. Good Communication….Trust is built* (page 8 CCP) set out in the CCP.

We agree those aims and commitments are appropriate. We believe it is patently apparent that incompetence and/or misleading are contrary to those stated standards, requirements, aims and commitments. And examples of those can be found within the CCP itself!

For example, Hanson states that the 'Mt Cannibal Reserve is located one kilometer to the west' (page 6 CCP). In fact, Mt Cannibal Reserve is only 340 metres. A basic error of measuring distance highlights our concerns regarding its competence and the importance of oversight.

In the CCP, Hanson blames community anger regarding lack of information and failed promises on 'internal investment strategy and forward planning pushed project timelines into lengthy period' (page 29). Hanson delays had no relevance to the issue. The community was angry because Hanson repeatedly promised to deliver 2007/8 studies and reports and Hanson continues to fail to honour those promises.

The above examples of misleading statements and lack of capability are from the CCP alone. It is troubling that it is in the same document that commits Hanson to '*Provide factual, accurate information*' (page 3).

More examples are set out in Appendix A to illustrate why Hanson is so deeply distrusted. Their conduct over more than 10 years evidences that there is little likelihood the community will trust the implementation of the EES process and Hanson's involvement unless safeguards are implemented.

The aim to ensure those safeguards are met include;

- Extensive, timely and genuine community representation;
- Precise, factual, accurate information regarding the proposal and its impacts in a timely manner
  - Respectful interaction and exchange of information.

The following sets out some of the requirements to ensure those aims are achieved;

# Extensive, timely and genuine community representation

The community requests that it has representation on the TRG. This community believes that it is equitable and reasonable, especially in light of Hanson's history, that it has representation during the entire EES process. It will assist and support fair process that the community has access to process, data and input in timely manner. The community has lived in the shadow of this proposal for over 10 years with almost no consultation or information. Also, community representation is consistent with the stated objectives of the CCP to supply "factual, accurate information" to the community.

Also, Hanson have repeatedly made misleading statements. It is imperative that there is opportunity to correct that as and when it occurs.

With a proposal of this magnitude and opposition, it is important that the community trusts that it has the opportunity and time to review, consider and formulate its position. It is vital that the community has detailed information as listed above to allow it to assess this proposal in consultation with its experts and the community. That information is needed as soon as it comes to hand to permit timely community and independent evaluation.

The input from community representation also can highlight issues unique or overlooked by those not familiar with the area.

We also seek details of the makeup of the TRG. If there are agencies not present who we believe should be, we need ability to have input. As an example, if Melbourne Water were not present to "look after" the waterways, we would have concerns.

The composition of the TRG must be made public. It is important the TRG fully meets required skills and knowledge necessary for a proposal of this nature and magnitude in such a unique and important area. As an example, the traffic management consultant at July 2017 meeting claimed that it was not their responsibility to assess increased risk of accidents or risks of failure of compliance with the traffic management plan. He also stated it was not within his scope to consider impact of traffic impacts on alternative routes. It is imperative that all issues are considered and the composition of the TRG ensures effective and timely consideration of issues.

# Precise, factual, accurate information regarding the proposal and its impacts in a timely manner

We require detailed information regarding this proposal and the impacts. We require that information as soon as it comes to hand to allow timely consideration as a matter of equity to the community.

The information requested as it comes to hand is;

- All data and reports collected in regard to each of the areas under consideration as outlined in the Scoping Requirements;
- The proposed project plan, including timelines. Detailed site plans, all options under consideration including Work Plans, Traffic Management, construction and implementation phases (with time lines), dust management, water management, operations plans, including

hours of operation throughout the project life. That information is required to be precise and detailed. It must also reflect regulatory requirements.

Feedback from TRG

# Respectful interaction and exchange of information

Hanson must;

- Provide extensive and repeated notification of meetings and disclosure of information to the community. That notification and disclosure should, as a minimum, be 4 weeks, 2 weeks and 1 week ahead. The notification should include email alert, local newsletters including Bunyip, Garfield, Longwarry, Labertouche, Tynong and other newsletters in Cardinia and Baw Baw shires potentially impacted together with local newspapers (Pakenham & Warragul as minimum). All residents in the area should also be sent a letter at least 1 week prior.
- All meetings to be held at a suitable neutral location in close proximity. The Bunyip Hall is considered suitable.
- All meetings are held at a suitable time. The time should be selected after consultation with the
  community. The Mt Cannibal and District Preservation Group Inc (MCDP) has proof that it almost
  unanimously represents the community in regard to this quarry proposal. We request that
  Hanson commit to consulting with MCDP regarding these issues.
- Hanson commit to educating their staff and consultants in respectful interaction with the
  community. Hanson must commit to our community that its representatives will not use
  vulgarities such as f\*\*\* in its dealings with our community.
- Comply with its obligations and commitments, including compliance with the CCP.

# **COMPENSATION, ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

In addition to the items listed in Scoping, the methods and impacts of enforcement of the obligations and requirements is vital to a proposal of this magnitude. The community needs to be informed of the methods, entities responsible for enforcement, penalties and other consequences for failure to comply with obligations and responsibilities. That information must include entities responsible for compliance.

An assessment of realistic and enforceable system is needed. Assessment to include monitoring.

The impact on Cardinia Shire, local police and other enforcement agencies is required. That assessment to include financial impacts over the life of the proposal, agencies responsible, analysis of current and historic compliance, monitoring, penalties in addition to legislation and or regulation, what entity incurs penalties, compensation and bonds.

If this proposal proceeds, a predetermined, fair, simple, readily accessible and independently administered method of compensation is required for losses incurred by the community. Those losses need to include financial loss, loss of enjoyment, damage and loss to environment.

#### **CONSULTATIVE PROCESS**

There is much mention of Stakeholder Consultation. This process started about 10 years ago. The proponent should describe in detail everything which has been relevant to this Consultation over that period. We submit that what they have done over that time is relevant, not just what they say they will now do.

The initial contact to residents was in 2008 from Futureye who were commissioned by Hanson to assess Stakeholder views. Their report should be included as part of the Consultation. There should also be a list of how many times contact with the Community was initiated by Hanson.

Who are the Consultants commissioned by Hanson for the various reports? Public access to the actual scope of work given to each consultant is required.

#### **PEER REVIEW**

Consistent with the aim to provide 'factual, accurate information about the project and its likely environmental, social and economic impacts' (page 3 CCP), a peer review of consultant reports is requested. Those peer reviews to especially be required for reports where it is likely that opinions of consultants are part of reporting.

#### STUDY AND DATA COLLECTION & METHODOLOGY

It became apparent at July 2017 public meeting that Hanson's consultants are limiting data collection to minimal levels. As an example, traffic useage data collected must include school times, all week days and public holidays and not very limited day. Another example is hydrology and hydrogeology reports need to consider all seasons and variations of those seasons (drought, floods) in their assessments.

Data collection must be comprehensive and commence since acquisition of the land in 2007. Assessment must be from acquisition in 2007 and through to project completion in almost 100 years

# SPECIFIC COMMENTS JULY 2017 DRAFT SCOPING REQUIREMENTS

#### 3. MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EES

Description of Entire Project

The description of the project must be within legal and regulatory parameters. Concern regarding Hanson and its knowledge or understanding of those parameters is highlighted by Hanson proposal for 100 metre buffer.

The EPA's Guideline 1518, Recommended Separation Distances for Industrial Residual Air Emissions (7 March 2013) provides relevant standards under the EES process. Under this Guideline, the minimum separation distance for the type of quarry proposed by Hanson is

BY MT CANNIBAL & DISTRICT PRESERVATION GROUP INC

500m (due to blasting and/or respirable crystalline silica). The reduction to 100 metres proposed by Hanson is inconsistent with the Guideline.

The assessment of potential impact on air quality and the project, must include State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP) is the SEPP Air Quality and Management, together with the EPA's Protocol for Environmental Management SEPP (Air Quality Management) – Mining and Extractive Industries (2007) which is an incorporated part of the SEPP. Both of these documents have legal authority and must be adhered to. Hanson must conduct air quality assessment to ensure that the project's off-site emissions do not adversely impact on the environment.

According to Hanson's documents the project will have daily transported amount of excavated stone of 7000 tonnes. In that case the project will be in the category of 'above 500,000 tonnes per year' (Protocol p6). Combined with the separation distance issue above, this places the proposal at level 1 ie requiring the highest level of assessment. The standards set out must be complied with. The scoping should include assessments and modelling that incorporate any changes to those standards.

Hanson has provided little information or detail such as the proposed construction phase, work plans, phases of the project. In addition to items listed at 3.3, we require timelines associated with each of those activities.

We require proposed production rates and timing of those production rates.

It is required that precise details, including proposed location of all equipment and activities together with time lines associated with each activity.

We require rationale for each option. That rationale to include legal and operational factors. As an example, Hanson's CCP shows that the crusher is planned to be immediately on the boundary of a farm with important and unique water and habitat environment. Hanson's map shows that it is planned to be within extremely close proximity to residences. Details and explanation of reasons for location of all planned activities and plant & equipment.

Timelines are required for those planned activities and installation of plant & equipment

# Project alternatives

This area is treasured for its tranquility and strong sense of community. As the land in this area is fertile and has good rainfall, it is closely populated for a rural environment. There are 164 homes within 1.5km. Despite being closely populated the community has been very active in protecting the environment which is important and unique. The surrounding areas such as Bunyip, Garfield, Pakenham and Warragul have rapidly expanding housing and commercial developments.

Assessment is needed for selecting a location for a quarry within relatively heavily populated and stable community? What assessment did Hanson undertake it selecting a location for a quarry in the rapidly expanding residential and commercial development area?

What assessment did Hanson undertake before selecting a location for a quarry in an environmentally important and unique location?

Hanson have stated that it did not consider any other locations. In light of the disruption that Bunyip North location causes (including to community, the encroachment of increasing population into the area, the threat a quarry would pose to important flora and fauna environment) it is requested that Hanson explain their decision to select a location unsuitable for quarrying.

The GSB TR2003/2 Melbourne Supply Extractive Industries Areas Review identifies the quarrying potential extending as far as Latrobe Valley. Latrobe Valley area has long been mined and is well suited to quarrying. Hanson must provide an assessment in explanation for its decision to exclude such a suitable area for quarrying without a thorough assessment.

#### 4.2 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

There must be consideration of Economic Impact with a Baseline used of immediately before the arrival of Hanson. i.e. account must be taken of negative impacts already caused by their presence - such things as residents not building houses or expanding their businesses because of the threat faced. Also, of Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre being relatively idle now compared with what is was pre-Hanson and what it undoubtedly would be again if Hanson departed the scene. It is potentially a very viable business with wonderful facilities and would re-emerge as a major equestrian venue and a major asset for Cardinia Shire.

A full assessment which is necessary would include consultation with Shires of Baw Baw and Cardinia and City of Casey about the importance of TEC. It should include proper assessment of what the calendar would be offering based on their activity before Hanson so adversely affected it. As an example, the Trans Tasman Challenge brought New Zealand families to Australia who stayed in the area for more than 2 weeks. World Cup Show Jumping was an annual event which was important for all of Victoria. The local impact for towns of Bunyip and Garfield was huge (publicans will confirm that the busiest nights they had each year were during this fortnight). Just as importantly though, Tonimbuk removing itself from the calendar left too big a gap between the event at Sale and the one at Boneo Park, so the interstate and international riders stopped coming to Victoria at all. Similarly, State Championship of Pony Clubs, Tom Quilty and other endurance events, Australian Quarter Horse Championships, Trials for Riding for the Disabled, Arabian Show Championships and others all involved midweek activity. Nearly all were annual fixtures and all have ceased. They would immediately start again if the venue became available again. The economic value to the area was substantial and the activity fitted logically with the lifestyles of the residents and the general amenity of the area. There were regularly international and interstate visitors in this area only because of events at TEC.

Apart from the major events, there was daily usage of the facility by local riders, Adult Riding Clubs, local Show Jumpers etc. It was a venue for coaching. It also provided employment opportunities.

Hanson currently permit, and presumably would continue to permit, one or two events per year and very limited opportunity for casual riders. They would cease the dangerous quarrying activity while this riding was occurring. Hanson should confirm that they would in fact continue to allow some riding and precisely how much this would be. A detailed analysis comparing this with what the employment and economic activity of TEC would be if it were unrestrained by Hanson should be made.

This full analysis should also cover the potential detriment to tourism in general, not just through TEC. Wineries and accommodation providers see the Quarry as being incompatible with their business. The study should report on tourism opportunities already lost as well as further damage which would be wrought. Surveys should be taken of visitors to Mt Cannibal, Bunyip State Park and Bed and Breakfasts etc to gauge from the visitors themselves what impact the development of a quarry might have.

Area of Interest for the Extractive Industry - it is acknowledged that Hanson's proposed site falls within this area. However, it must also be acknowledged that these areas were so defined after the time when a large proportion of affected residents first moved to the area. No information on the change of status of their properties was ever given to these residents by the Government or anyone else. It is unclear who is liable here. It should also be acknowledged that these Areas of Interest in total cover a large area of land, some parts of which are demonstrably more suited to a quarry operation. A nearby example is the Fulton Hogan operation in Tynong. To enable a fair assessment of the Hanson proposal, we request a comparative study between the 2 sites. When Fulton Hogan recently applied for an extension to their operation, there was not a single objection from a local resident. Hanson has had hundreds. Differences include a low-lying position compared with Hanson's choice of an elevated one, simple access to the Highway and lack of residences abutting the site. We believe this study of the 2 sites will demonstrate that Hanson have chosen the wrong location.

# 4.3 BIODIVERSITY

All Ecological Vegetation Classes in the area should be listed with ramifications detailed in full. This should include the area illegally cleared by Hanson for which they were prosecuted and fined.

Impact on Orchids within the Hanson property and nearby should be defined. Acknowledgment should be given to the area being declared a site of significance by the Australasian Native Orchid Society. Assurances must be provided that no harm would be done to the dozens of varieties of orchid which have varying levels of scarcity and include the federally listed pterostylis chlorogamma.

Assessment must be made of the importance of the biolink connecting Cannibal Creek Reserve, Mt Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve and Bunyip State Park.

While recognising that much damage has occurred since Hanson have owned the land, assessment must be made of removing the vegetation which does still exist there, particularly the large eucalypts with hollows which have been used by owls for roosting and nesting.

Assessment must be made of impact on roadside vegetation.

Assessment must be made of damage to flora which is food or shelter for local fauna, particularly endangered fauna.

Assessment must be made of damage to Mt Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve which was last year declared to be of State significance.

The Hanson proposal must be assessed with consideration to the importance of the whole area. As an example, a neighbouring property has had its intrinsic floral quality recognised by Trust for Nature and has a protective covenant. Current studies into Cannibal Creek describe this area as a "biodiversity hotspot".

Impact on seagrasses in RAMSAR listed Westernport from increased flow of sediment through Bunyip River must be assessed.

Impact due to Hanson's already established track record. Apart from illegal clearing, their property maintenance has led to spread of weeds even with continual complaints from neighbours and Landcare.

The importance of Cannibal Creek has been recognised and enhanced by projects over the last 2 years which are still continuing and expected to do so in the future as well. Managed by Cardinia Environment Coalition with partners Shire of Cardinia, Melbourne Water, Bunyip Landcare, Cannibal Creek Landcare and Friends of Mt Cannibal, the aim has been to preserve the important intrinsic qualities of Cannibal Creek as well as performing any necessary weed control and revegetation.

It has additionally involved the neighbouring landholders and many hundreds of volunteer hours. Funds have been provided by Local, State and Federal Government.

It seems inconceivable that this iconic project with the important waterway and creekside vegetation on which it is based could be jeopardised by such an ill conceived proposal. Hanson's proposed location could not be more inappropriate.

The Mt Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve is listed as being of State significance. It is also designated a site of significance by the Australasian Native Orchid Society. It is only 340 metres from the Hanson site. A circular path used by most visitors overlooks the Hanson site. Visitors have recently been counted by Shire of Cardinia and number more 1500 per week. These numbers are steadily increasing as the word spreads about the spectacular beauty of Mt Cannibal.

With the Hanson property and the unused road reserve between Hanson and Mt Cannibal, it is an important biolink with Cannibal Creek Reserve to the south and Bunyip State Park to the north. All have increasing importance for leisure time with people enjoying nature. They also all have importance with high quality remnant vegetation.

Some examples of Flora and Fauna are listed as being issues. All such species should be listed in the Scope. For example, Helmeted Honeyeaters, also listed under the EPBC Act are not mentioned even though there have been recent sightings in the area. Also, residents are entitled to know that iconic species such as all the large Owls, platypus and many others are being considered in the study. Please provide a full list of species being considered.

The precise areas being studied should be listed. For example, in the wetland area adjoining Tonimbuk Rd and just south of where Hanson propose to have their trucks enter, there are regular sightings of Royal Spoonbills and of Intermediate Egrets. Would their presence be affected? Also, what impact would there be on flora and fauna in other nearby areas including Mt Cannibal Flora and

Fauna Reserve, Cannibal Creek Reserve, the streamside vegetation along Cannibal Creek, roadside vegetation? Also what impact would there be on the biolink connecting Bunyip State Park with these important areas of remnant vegetation?

What adverse impact would there be from the disincentive of changing the nature of the area. As an example, tens of thousands of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours have been spent on Cannibal Creek Catchment area. It has been a work of pride for the Community. If the area is so fundamentally altered as it would be by this proposal, this volunteer activity will cease. Already there have been changes. All the roadside weeds were sprayed by volunteers. This ceased, partly because Hanson allowed blackberry and other weeds to flourish on their property and the seed accordingly to spread, but also because of the simple threat of such a change to the area. "Why would we work to improve the area when they want to do that to it". This pride and community spirit would again flourish if Hanson departed.

A large bond should be lodged against Hanson not honouring commitments e.g. if water supplies are affected beyond what they state will be the case, or if Cannibal Creek or other assets are impacted beyond what they claim, this should be forfeited. Also, in events like these, will Hanson have to cease all activity?

There would be changes to traffic flow. What additional impact would there on flora and fauna near roadsides? For example, on Sanders Rd and Garfield North Rd?

The studies must take into account that the last few years have been usually wet and runoff of water into dams and creeks has been regular. Drought years will return and impacts of Hanson's proposal under these conditions must be assessed.

What increase would there be in salinity, particularly around the important wetland immediately south of Hanson's property? Also, with this wetland which hosts EPBC listed species, what impact would there be from Hanson's idea of having their crushing facility and associated traffic and activity so close to it? Precisely how far are they proposing it to be?

What would be the impact from vibration, not just on listed species but also on resident iconic species such as wombats, kangaroos, quail, etc?

There would be changes to traffic flow. What additional impact would there on flora and fauna near roadsides? For example, on Sanders Rd and Garfield North Rd?

Would Hanson be proposing to have lighting to operate beyond daylight hours? If so, what ramifications would there be for wildlife, for example owls, bats, gliders, possums and wombats?

There is presently a study by Melbourne Water which might result in the closure of the Bunyip Main Race. Should this occur, it would remove what is used as a water source for fauna. The remaining sources of water would then become more important. Assessment of the risks posed by Hanson's proposal should be made with a presumption of the alternative source i.e. the Main Race, being unavailable.

# 4.4 WATER

What is the area of the study? Which dams and waterways are being assessed for potential impact?

The studies should consider groundwater conditions of 15 years ago as well as of now. Drought conditions will return and climate change is expected to make water a more valuable resource in this area. Would whatever claims are made about adequacy of supply hold true in drier times?

What impact would there potentially be on Cannibal Creek and Two Mile Creek? Is there potential for increased sediment to be carried via these waterways to the RAMSAR listed Western Port? Has the importance of the platypus population been adequately considered in light of their demise in other locations?

What impact would there be on drinking water for fauna as well as people? And for livestock? Does the dust and/or sediment have any consequences for water?

Will there be widespread consultation with local residents who have built up knowledge on the unpredictable consequences of earthworks on the aquifers in the area?

Will these reports specify the degree of uncertainty which pertains to all claims?

Would residents' ability to have a guaranteed supply of water for fire fighting be impacted, particularly in an extended drought when fires are most likely to be threatening and with due consideration for climate change?

Whatever the assertions of Hanson, what recourse to damages would residents have if a problem did in fact develop with water? Residents note that despite assurances, serious problems developed with Mt Shamrock quarry, and that was with an extension to an existing quarry. There are greater unknowns with developing a greenfield site.

The channel to north of Hanson's property is under consideration for closure. What impact will possible closure have in conjunction to proposed quarry?

What impact will there be in relation to bush fire risk. If there is expected to be drying of pasture and vegetation as a result of the quarry, what increased risk is there for fire & what impacts are there for water to be available for fire fighting?

Water for consumption and use in the area surrounding Hanson's land is almost exclusively tank water collected from roofs. An assessment of impact that dust from quarrying activities (including trucks) will have on water quality in tanks to be undertaken including:

- Impact on health and/or taste and enjoyment
- Monitoring that will be undertaken including frequency
- Compensation available if dust enters water tanks and other water sources?

What will be source of water for dust suppression? What impact will that have at source and surrounding areas? What impact will water used for dust suppression have on site and surrounding areas?

What monitoring will be undertaken? How will compliance be verified and how often will compliance be verified?

As detailed above in 4.3, there is a likelihood of closure of Bunyip Main Race. This would remove the present option of siphoning additional water into Cannibal Creek to maintain flow, hence increasing the importance of the natural runoff being available and unpolluted. Assessment should be made of increased risk associated with Hanson's proposal to alter surface water runoff and the underground aquifers from the perspective of there being no Main Race. Will reporting from CFA be sought to comment on the increased importance of other sources if Main Race, which is presently a designated fill-up point, closes?

Will there be acknowledgement of and comment made on the 2017 Melbourne Water "Tarago and Bunyip Rivers Environmental Management Plan"? There are numerous references to Cannibal Creek and its biodiversity.

# 4.5 CULTURAL HERITAGE

What scale of area will be assessed? As well the land owned by Hanson, will consideration be given to compromise caused to areas such as Cannibal Creek environs and Mt Cannibal Reserve by having such a large-scale destruction to adjoining land? Will proper studies be completed on the importance of these areas to the traditional owners?

Will the Heritage of the last 160 years also be considered? There is a history of equestrian and farming activity over that time which will continue if Hanson go away. What is the impact of ignoring this heritage?

Heritage is defined as a tradition which is handed down. What would be the impact of such an abrupt halt to the traditions handed down through generations of activity like walking the circuit of Mt Cannibal Reserve and admiring the view in every direction? And what is the intergenerational impact of substantially reduced property values?

# 4.6 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Specifically what routes would trucks be taking? Would they be permitted to head north along Tonimbuk Rd? Or west along Sanders Rd? Or cross the Highway and go south along Hope St? If they would be to any of these, what are the ramifications for other road users?

What would the indirect impact on traffic be? Specifically, assessment of useage of alternative route such as Sanders Rd and Garfield North Rd to avoid the Hanson trucks and access the Highway. And what improvements for safety would Hanson propose to these roads? Similarly, assessment of alternative routes to avoid Hope St to access the Highway. And what would the safety implications of this be with additional traffic going past 2 Primary Schools and crossing the railway line twice to access Nar Nar Goon - Longwarry Rd then return further west to the Highway?

Tonimbuk Rd and other major and minor roads are school bus routes. What are the implications of this?

Tonimbuk Rd is designated as a road to use for evacuation from fires. If a fire broke out and people were seeking to flee, how much greater would the danger be because of the Hanson trucks also seeking to escape the fire? Would Hanson stop all operations in high fire danger times? In 2009, after Black Saturday, there were many days when many residents chose to evacuate. People with horses in particular will often move the horses the day before a threatened bad day and bring them back after. What impact would Hanson's operations have on their safety? Would they always stop operations the day before and after scheduled Fire Danger days? And how much greater will this threat be with Climate Change? Would emergency vehicles be impeded by Hanson trucks, particularly if there happened to be a "blip" in numbers of them at the wrong time?

Access to Tonimbuk Rd is stated as being intended to be from Hanson's own property. They would have to give way to traffic coming from the north. Would there be enforcement mechanisms such as cameras to ensure all trucks stopped at this dangerous point? And would there be severe penalties for Hanson as well as the drivers if they did not stop?

Assessment must include methodology (including monitoring and penalties) for safety and compliance with traffic management plan.

Assessment of increased risk to road users and wildlife must be undertaken, particularly on Tonimbuk Rd and Princes Fwy.

# 4.7 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, SAFETY AND AMENITY

Will the latest guidelines be the basis of consideration with regard to health issues such as the impact of silica on people, flora and fauna? As developing research emerges documenting concerns, will this research be included in considerations?

As with other factors being considered in this EES, will the baseline be 2007? Residents have suffered unnecessary anxiety because of the actions of Hanson and their failure to deliver on their promises. The mental health of many residents has been affected but would immediately dramatically improve if the threat of having Hanson as a neighbour was removed. We submit that mental health of those affected is as significant as the threat to physical health and would like this assessed.

Will studies be done on the respiratory and other health problems of nearby residents? Without knowing the potential impact on the actual individuals, the study would be incomplete.

Will these studies cover the cumulative effect of dust as specified by EPA. Also from the EPA, will they add this effect to that of the dust from the existing quarries? And report on the impact on all properties within 6km? Will the report specifically inform with a qualitative risk assessment for the primary schools and kindergartens, Mt Cannibal Reserve, School Camp in Garfield North Rd, Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre, Gumbuya Park and Cannibal Creek Pony Club, all of which host numbers of children.

Would the project abide by the EPA guideline that there be a minimum of 500m as a Buffer? The submission shows100 metres - a substantial difference. There should be clear definitions of how close to residences and to other people's livestock Hanson propose to go with their various activities.

Will houses be individually assessed for potential damage and agreements put in place beforehand to ensure work stops and damages are paid if damage does occur? How widespread an area will be covered by these assessments?

which properties will be assessed for likely impact of noise and vibration? Will reports from Building Surveyors be prepared before any operation starts for residents who request them, with particular regard for potential damage to houses, water tanks and other vulnerable property

Would operation stop on days other than still days. With the proposed elevated position, residents with local knowledge do not believe dust could be prevented from blowing.

Which properties will be assessed for likely impact of noise and vibration?

How many accidents do you expect to horse riders or to the horses themselves from the blasting and traffic. What mitigation measures would be put in place to reduce the risk of these accidents?

Would Hanson be wishing to operate with artificial lighting? What impact would there be compared with the status quo? Tourists and visitors from Melbourne comment on their joy of being able to see the nighttime sky.

Will the benchmarks for noise levels and other measurements be precisely specified?

The health of members of our community has already been impacted. Assessment must include last 10 years.

Hanson propose to operate 7 days per week with quarrying activities from 6am to 6pm every week day plus Saturday mornings plus plant maintenance for remainder of weekend (see Referral). Also, Hanson state that there will be up to 530 vehicle movements every day (every 80 seconds).

An assessment of the impact on the health and well being of local residents to be completed, including consideration of:

- noise,
- vibration
- exposure to heavily laden vehicles on their country roads
- Effect on mental and physical health from fighting this unwanted and uninvited intrusion
- Silica dust and other airborne particles
- Effect on hearing
- Air quality
- Effect of destruction of social fabric.

A survey of over 200 people almost unanimously (only one abstainer and one other) were opposed to this proposed quarry. It has already caused stress and anxiety to residents. Assessment to be undertaken on mental and physical health of residents.

#### 4.8 SOCIAL IMPACT AND LAND USE

Given the 3 key issues as defined, why isn't this proposal dismissed out of hand?

It is incompatible with the lifestyle of every resident, it is incompatible with farming and equestrian activity, it is a direct deterrent to tourism which has huge potential in the area, it is against the findings of reports highlighting the increasing importance of agricultural land close to Melbourne such as Foodprint-Melbourne. These are all assertions but they should be evaluated and an assessment made of the compatibility overall of such a project.

How great is the adverse impact of damage to tourism on nearby areas as well as the immediate area? Businesses in Bunyip have suffered since the diminution of the Tonimbuk Equestrian Facility.

There are direct measurable consequences but what would be the indirect impact be of having a more constrained community? Would residents from north of the highway go as willingly and frequently to Bunyip to shop or visit or play sport? What other restrictions would they consciously or sub-consciously feel?

These are all assertions but they should be evaluated and an assessment made of the compatibility overall of such a project.

Given the importance and difficulty of precise definition of intangible qualities such as amenity and social impact, will Hanson fund the Community to commission its own report and set its own parameters to be assessed?

What is the social impact if one company causes financial loss and reduced asset values to an entire Community? How significant would these reductions be?

How much more division could Hanson cause? They approached sporting clubs south of the highway offering them money while refusing to engage with the residents north of the highway who would be most affected if they got their way. There is already serious division in these clubs and in the Community in general. This could not disappear within a generation. An assessment should be made of how much damage this division does to a Community.

Assessment should be made of how many jobs have already been lost due to Hanson's presence, how many more would be lost if the quarry were to proceed and measure this against how many would be created. Assessment should also be made of how these statistics might vary if Hanson went away and they or some other party developed a quarry in a more suitable location.

The impact of dust, noise and vibration must take into consideration the individual sensitivity of residents and visitors.

# 4.9 LANDSCAPE, VISUAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES

Which residences and viewpoints will the study consider the impact from?

Quantify the likely reduction in visitor numbers to Mt Cannibal. And to the area for other passive recreation such as bird-watching.

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What adverse visual impact would there be from dying vegetation due to water being diverted or used by Hanson's operation?

Would the work be visible from Tonimbuk Rd or Sanders Rd?

Define the risk of land slippage and what compensation and/or penalties would be available or imposed by this or other problems due to Hanson's operation.

# 4.10 REHABILITATION

How substantial a bond would have to be lodged?

What is rehabilitation plan - plan must include the time line for each phase.

#### 4.11 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The objective states that clear accountabilities should be provided. What penalties would there be for failing to deliver on these accountabilities?

#### 4.12 INTEGRATED AND ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Will this objective be considered versus the alternative of Hanson going away and the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre again becoming available as a full time equestrian facility? And the associated boost which would then happen with tourism and recreational pursuits?

Will the study outline just what community benefit would result, apart from the supply of granite which could better come from other locations?

#### **OTHER**

# **EQUESTRIAN**

Given the unique importance of equestrian in this community, it has its own heading. Also, equestrian has importance under each of the headings 4.4, 4.6-4.9.

The area surrounding Hanson's Bunyip North proposed quarry has very high population of horses and equestrians, including elite competitors at Olympic and World Equestrian Games in multiple disciplines. Many of us live in this area because it is ideal for equestrian activities.

Equestrian activities and the presence of horses comes within 'sensitive land uses' for purposes of separation distances. In fact, it is reasonable, due to risks associated with equestrian activities and the high population of horses, that the separation distances are increased *beyond* minimum set in EPA Guidelines.

Horses are large flight animals and, as such, are sensitive to noise, change or unusual circumstances. Horses can, and do, react erratically and potentially dangerously. There have been high publicised

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deaths for horse riders in recent years. The risks are very real. Horses are typically trained daily so this is ongoing and daily issue.

Assessment must be undertaken to this financially, culturally and socially important aspect of our community.

Horses have huge lungs (av 42,000mL - compared with human av 500mL). Their respiratory health is vital to their performance and overall health.

Assessment of impact of dust, especially silica dust, on horse performance and health is required.

Assessment of impact on numerous horse businesses - both locally and more widely is required

Water for horse consumption and use is almost exclusively from dams and tanks. Assessment of impact of quarrying activity have on water (whether dust or other quarrying activities) and health of horses and other animals (including palatibility). Assessment to include impact on pasture and flora.

Prior to Hanson's purchase, the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre was an important contributor to the economy and lifestyle of the area and much wider equestrian community. It hosted major events that drew competitors from around Australia and the world. Those competitors, support crew and officials stayed in the local area and utilised other local businesses such as supermarkets, cafes etc. What impact has closure of Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre (except for once per year Tonimbuk Horse Trials and occasional horse show) had on local economy? What impact has it had on Australian equestrian community?

There are many examples of important and iconic equestrian events that drew international and national tourism. Assessment to include financial, social and cultural impacts of loss of venue to host major and local equestrian events.

Locals (together with the many horse riders who come to this area) ride on many of the local roads. The Bunyip State Park is a particularly popular destination. Horses are on the roads at all times of day and night. It is incredibly dangerous to have large trucks on the road at the same time as horses. Restrictions on the useage of local roads must be established. The penalty for non compliance for drivers and Hanson must be commensurate with real risk of death or serious injury to riders and horses.

Hanson acknowledge they are not experts in horse health, behaviour or psychology. We agree and suitable experts must be engaged.

#### **APPENDIX A**

#### **HANSON HISTORY**

The following examples in our history with Hanson help illustrate the reasons why our community's deeply distrusts Hanson, feels misled, experiences anxiety and has grave concerns for our future - in particular concerns for our environment. Hanson's competence to operate a project of this scale is also questioned.

We have experienced over 10 years of uncertainty, broken promises, financial loss and stress as a result of Hanson's proposal and Hanson's conduct.

Community concerns began with Hanson's purchase of the site in the name of JRH Pastoral. We can confirm that a purchase of neighbouring land was made on the basis that the site was owned by a 'Pastoral' company. It is impossible to describe the extent of their anger and stress on discovering that the 'pastoral' company was actually Hanson. This family would never have purchased the land if it was known that Hanson was the true owner of the neighbouring property.

Hanson has mapped and stated that the buffer zone will be 100 metres. However, the EPA's Guideline 1518, Recommended Separation Distances for Industrial Residual Air Emissions (7 March 2013) provides relevant standards under the EES process. Under this Guideline, the minimum separation distance for the type of quarry proposed by Hanson is 500m (due to blasting and/or respirable crystalline silica). The reduction to 100 metres proposed by Hanson is inconsistent with the Guideline. The community is justified in questioning the reasons for such errors.

Another most recent example is in the CCP itself. The second issue listed in Appendix A (page29 CCP) raises the community stated 'lack of Hanson's direct interaction… has created health issues …. community members demanding an apology from Hanson for the lack of information ' is another misleading statement. Hanson's response is that 'internal investment strategy and forward planning pushed project timelines into lengthy periods' in response to complaints about the lack of publicly available information and Hanson interaction.

That response is misleading in the extreme. The community has repeatedly requested copies of data collected and reports undertaken by Hanson or on its behalf in 2007-2008. The 2008 Futureye Report Appendix III, point 3 stated -

"Will the outcomes of these surveys/investigations be in the public domain? Yes, we are keen to share the results of these studies with our neighbours and any other interested parties. It is important that everyone in the is fully aware of any work that has been done."

Requests for that information have been ongoing. Again, Hanson said at a meeting in June 2014 that it would provide the reports and studies "within the month". None of those promises have been honoured. It is clearly a misdirect to categorise that the issue was in relation to internal Hanson delays. We asked for the studies and reports originally undertaken in 2007/2008. We still ask to be provided with those studies and reports. We ask Hanson to demonstrate their *Commitment…*\*Integrity…\*\* \*Respect…\*\* \*Transparency…\*\* \*Inclusiveness…\*\* \*Trusting Relationships…\*\* Good

*Communication ···. Trust is built* by honouring their promises to supply those 2007/2008 studies and reports.

Some of Hanson's history that demonstrates the basis for our continuing alarm about Hanson include;

# Quarry is "fait accompli"

Hanson stated at its first ever community meeting on Thursday 23 March 2017 that:

"in all the studies, I haven't seen any show stoppers.... We can't come to you at the very start and say this is a fait accompli, ..... this is the reports, suck it up"

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Hanson regard the EES process as a foregone conclusion and as anything more than ticking a box". Hanson's statement that there were no "show stoppers" all before the EES process has been concluded raises the question as to their commitment to EES process. It raises the question if Hanson places any importance on the principles of consultation outlined in their CCP.

# Failed promises

The attitude of Hanson in relation to July 2017meeting is consistent with prior dealings. On numerous occasions Hanson have promised they would supply expert reports undertaken in approximately 2007-8. Hanson has still failed to honour those promises. It is difficult not to speculate on the content of those reports given Hanson's repeated failure to honour their promises for disclosure.

# Misleading conduct

Hanson stated in their Referral:-

- ♦ that "there were a cluster of three dwellings.... in north eastern corner of proposed quarry site" suggesting that there were minimal dwellings effected. In fact, there are 29 residences within 500 metres, 51 residences within 1000 metres and 84 residences within 1500 metres.
- the naming of its quarry as Garfield North for over a decade. Absolutely no part of the proposed quarry is within Garfield North. It totally lies within Bunyip North. It again raises questions about Hanson's competence if it does not know where its own land is located.
- "No" in response to "Is there a potential for exposure of a human community to health or safety hazards, due to emissions to air or water or noise or chemical hazards or associated transport? There are so many elements to this denial that are patently wrong!

# Failure to comply

Hanson undertook vegetation removal for which they were prosecuted and fined. As Hanson have never provided the original research and reports - despite their repeated promises - we do not know the extent of damage caused by the illegal clearing.

The CCP states goal of the CCP is to *effectively engage with the community and stakeholders in an open and transparent manner* (page8) . Hanson held a "community consultation meeting" on 23 July 2017 at its property at Bunyip North. There was very little advertising to notify the community about this meeting. There were no letters to nearby landowners, no emails to known community members, etc. It is impossible for Hanson to effectively consult or address community concerns when Hanson

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appears to wish to keep important information meetings secret. Most attendees only became aware of the meeting due to the efforts of our committee.

Also, our community requested that the July 2017 meeting was held at a neutral location. Again, Hanson chose to ignore that request. The location was inappropriate for many reasons - typically it is cold and draughty and not suitable for some of our older residents especially. Hanson were requested to select a neutral location - why did Hanson ignore such a simple and inexpensive request?

The behaviour of Hanson personnel at that meeting - together with past experience - highlights their lack of respect. One Hanson representative repeatedly swore at a community member and stated that we were "lucky" to have her.