

Thursday, 5 June, 2008

NO PLANNING INTERVENTION FOR YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

Planning Minister Justin Madden today announced he will not intervene in Yarra Ranges Shire Council's decision to prevent the expansion of Montrose Quarry.

Mr Madden said he decided not to assume the role of planning authority that would be necessary for the quarry expansion to proceed.

"I have decided not to assume the role of planning authority and prepare the amendment that would be necessary for the quarry expansion to proceed," Mr Madden said.

"My decision was based on the fact that intervention was not warranted."

"In view of Council's decision that the amendment will not proceed, there is no practical purpose to exhibit the Environment Effects Statement (EES) prepared by Boral."

Boral Quarries Vic. Metro, which owns the Montrose Quarry, requested the Minister for Planning use his powers of intervention after Yarra Ranges Shire Council's decision not to prepare the amendment to its planning scheme that would allow the quarry expansion to go ahead.

"Following careful consideration of this request I believe that the planning control should remain with Yarra Ranges Shire Council in this case," Mr Madden said.

Member for Monbulk James Merlino MP said he welcomed the Minister Madden's decision not to intervene in this matter.

"Yarra Ranges Shire Council has made its decision based on careful consideration of all the issues involved, including the views of the local community, and is appropriate that it retains planning control," Mr Merlino said.

"I welcome this decision, this has been a long-standing issue and of great importance to the local community."

The Planning Minister can, under the *Planning and Environment Act 2007*, assume the role of planning authority in certain circumstances.