The Hon. Jaala Pulford, MLC

Minister for Regional Development,

Minister for Agriculture,

Level 20, 1 Spring Street,

Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

Dear Minister,

Re : Proposed Quarry in Bunyip North

I am writing to you regarding a proposal to create a large granite quarry on a greenfield site in Bunyip North.

The proponent of this new quarry is Hanson Materials. They acquired the grazing property in 2007 with a view to using it for their new quarry. In addition they purchased the adjoining property that was originally used as an equestrian facility. The total land now owned is 691 acres.

The area in which these properties are located totally relies on natural water supply for its existence. The construction of a quarry on this huge site includes the removal of the natural undulating land, the blasting and drilling down many metres through the granite with a view to achieve the extraction of over 2 million tonnes of mineral each year for 100 years.

This activity will totally destroy all existing groundwater, stopping springs from running, terminating flows into watercourses and to the nearby rivers, eliminating the many dams in the area used for stock watering and depleting the artesian basin with the many bores they plan to drill.

The rivers cannot survive this loss of water flow and the wildlife that use this area to live in and to traverse through to adjoining areas will equally be unable to survive.

The area is largely agricultural with orchards, vineyards and cattle farming making up most of the primary production activity – without water there will be no agriculture in the area and this will be a key loss for all concerned and the state as a whole.

The area also provides recreation and tourism opportunities for locals and visitors alike including :

The majestic Mount Cannibal, now a state significant site,

The Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre, whose future is now in jeopardy due to Hanson’s ownership,

Gumbuya Park, multi-million dollar upgrades planned,

Wineries, Restaurants, B&Bs and many other attractions

but who wants to come into an area that has a new quarry, blasting stone and raising dust, and running 500+ trucks per day 7 days per week? I think we know the answer to that!

I am not against quarrying for granite – indeed I use the products that are produced in these quarries. My opposition is that this proposal is to locate a huge new quarry in the middle of 200 residents and it is certain to damage our water supply, our agriculture, the environment and the amenity of the area. No visitors will wish to visit in the future and our tourist businesses will suffer.

These losses are significantly out of proportion to the benefits to be gained from having the quarry here.

In November 2015 the Planning Minister recognised that this large quarry proposal had

‘potential for significant environmental effects, in particular biodiversity, hydrology, groundwater and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values’

and ordered an Environmental Effects Statement (EES)to be undertaken.

I now understand the EES will be commencing in 2017 and in order to be comfortable that all appropriate areas of concern with this new development are adequately addressed, I would like to ensure that the proponents do not overlook the following vital aspects of impact to the area in their scoping documents, including but not limited to :

Water

Flora, Fauna and Endangered Wildlife,

Aboriginal Cultural Significance

Air Quality, Dust and Noise,

Traffic and Blasting,

Agriculture,

Mount Cannibal,

Tourism and Recreation, and

Amenity of the District

In addition I want to be sure that the proposer engages with my community’s representatives during the development of the EES and upon its completion to ensure that our voice is heard.

Your assistance in obtaining these basic objectives would be much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

Date / /