

# Council have already spent enough of YOUR money but are only giving YOU one side of the story.

Mitchell Shire Council has continued its deliberately divisive behaviour in a desperate bid to justify the expenditure it has wasted in targeting a 40-year-old family business, Conundrum Holdings.

Mitchell Shire Council is using municipal funds to instigate stalling tactics, promoting unethical slogans, handing out ratepayer funded t-shirts to a favoured minority, issuing 'hate mail' you paid for and erecting dubious signage.

Despite this, our family, staff, contractors, and customers have been encouraged by the increasing number of fellow residents saying they are embarrassed and ashamed of the Shire's antics and attempt to break a locally owned business' proposal.

So, we have decided to present you with our story and facts

## Fact #1: Resource providence, history and integrity.

- In 1857 mapping of the basalt flow, volcanic hills and presence of 2 quarries was undertaken by the Geological Survey of Victoria.
- In 1996 the Victorian State (GeoVic) earmarked this location as an Extractive Industry Interest Area (EIIA) as having potential for a quarry.
- In 2003 the Victorian State then re-confirmed the area and expanded it to the north of the existing EIIA.
- In 2005/06 Conundrum confirmed and identified the stone resource on the property, and it was drilled and proven.
- Between 2005 and 2014 adjoining property owners invited us to drill their land extensively – both the Gilbo family and Yarra Valley Water approved this activity.
- In 2009, this potential quarry was mapped as 'land unsuitable for urban development' by the Department of Planning and Community Development (now VPA), along with other environmentally or culturally significant sites – it is not new!
- In 2011, given all the available information and the resource's providence Conundrum Holdings sought and was issued number WA 1473 for this proposal.
- In 2015 the Victorian State statutorily endorsed the Work Plan, relating to WA 1473.
- Since the start, we have always in good faith followed, and continue to follow, the Victorian state direction and policies throughout this process



North Central Quarry map showing compatible adjacent land use, proposed work authority boundary, substantial buffers and geotechnical drilling investigation holes.

## Fact #2: Quarries precede development, it is a temporary land use only.

From the original work plan application North Central Quarry has always been recognised and accepted by Conundrum and the landlord as a 'known-life' (short-term) quarry, with a commitment to the community and landowner to hand back the area as a safe, stable, and sustainable site. This agreed concession by Conundrum prepares the quarry for its next life in keeping with (and in fact enhancing) the surrounding land use, all while continuing to offer great community benefit and serve the Victorian State.

Housing and development will not be in this area for decades, and it is documented and accepted this site will not be reclaimed with anything other than clean fill (deemed 'not for waste'). It will be a great community asset, like other quarries beautified throughout the state after reaching the end of their working life serving their communities.

What happens when a quarry comes to the end of its working life? Google "The New Lives of Old Quarries" a government publication outlining the stories of quarry land that's been repurposed for wonderful uses that benefit our community. The fact is quarrying, like water, power and food, is an essential part of life. It is not optional.

This is a State decision and not just the Shire – and Mitchell Shire Council has been selective with the facts about the North Central Quarry. It has not outlined what is already publicly available – instead of being transparent, they will be denying jobs, choice, and opportunity.

The shire is behaving unfairly towards a local family-owned business - Will your business be next?



Ferntree Gully Quarry Recreation Reserve showing a rehabilitated quarry | Photo 2021

## Let's talk FACTS about the planned quarry!

Contact us via our website for more information [www.conholdings.com.au](http://www.conholdings.com.au)  
Written on behalf of Conundrum Holdings Pty Ltd.