

North Central Quarry 2022



REASONS WHY:

North Central Quarry as a temporary land use will play an important role within the local community once operations commence.

It will provide local people, customers and suppliers choice and access to quality material; a range of employment and commercial opportunities; and a repository (or habitat) for native flora and fauna.

We are committed to supplying transparent information & responding to questions. Our key objectives are to identify issues, resolve misconceptions & meet expectations where possible.

APPLICATION INSIGHT AND TIMING

The application for Conundrum Holdings to successfully open the North Central Quarry WA1473 is perfectly timed.

This vital resource will support future generations, provide more local jobs and produce much needed material for Victoria's increasing range of infrastructure projects.

This site is part of the Extraction Industry Interest Area and ear marked since 1996 – it is the only site remaining within Metro Melbourne that provides for cost effective transport and rock extraction.

It's been in the pipeline for 15 years; the hard work's been done above ground – now it needs to start below.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Conundrum Holdings is proudly Australian – a locally owned and operated multi-generation family business.
- Quality basalt is in very short supply industry-wide, we are running out of high-quality material (and quarries!), SIMPLY there are no better placed shovel-ready extraction sites.
- Access to quarry materials supply is vital for building local and state-wide communities.

Currently, every person in Victoria uses on average between 8 – 10 tonnes of quarry material per annum.

Immediate impact for 60+ Local JOBS, local stimulus, local training, local opportunities.

- Part of a 4-site (quarry, concrete, transport depot & head office) Conundrum Holdings investment into Mitchell Shire.
- These sites will bring new wide-ranging JOBS and TRAINEESHIPS training over time in quality laboratories, administration, drivers etc.
- There will be a variety of 60+ jobs directly available to Mitchell Shire workers on and off-site.
- The investment will be supporting **1000+ customers & 400+ suppliers**, bringing significant, on-going community economic activity to region.
- The quarry will go a small way to replacing the very real and very immediate depletion of hard rock quarries in Melbourne's north.



AFTER SURVEYING OVER 500,000 HECTARES THIS UNIQUE SITE PRESENTS A ONCE-ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY TO ACCESS A VITAL AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE THAT IS DIMINISHING RIGHT NOW.

IT'S IDEALLY SUITED AND ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLICATE!

- Identified by the government as a potential Melbourne supply source (Extractive Industry Interest Area, since 1993).
- Direct linkage to a highway and has no housing abutting the site access.
- Remote from sensitive receptors and respectfully protects identified cultural heritage significance.
- Close to growth areas, delivering the smallest carbon footprint and reducing transport costs.
- Buffered by waste-water irrigation facility, highway and rural land.
- Minimal environmental footprint due to the presence of rock at the surface, depth and quality of the resource and lack of water courses on site.
- It's short-term – only 30-year extractive activity life span allowing area transition from quarrying to housing. **Quarry activity precedes development.**
- It's **SHOVEL READY**, a real opportunity to support the region's growth, and Conundrum Holdings are experts, ready to go and have the capacity to make this happen!

This vital strategic resource needs protection NOW.

Information Sheet – North Central Quarry

REAL INFORMATION ABOUT REAL JOBS AND REAL PEOPLE!

Local job offerings will increase.

Many local businesses, and supporters listed below, will be beneficiaries!

The application states there are 19 directly employed initial “FTE”, referring to direct Full Time Equivalents (an accepted method of analysing jobs). This figure will rise to approximately 27 people at maximum production.

Staffing will vary with activity - admin, winning, processing, regulatory compliance, maintenance and material testing. We will need additional staff when stripping, drilling, shot loading, on high production, for major maintenance and rehabilitation.

Further economic opportunities and indirect employment will arise in on-road truck companies, the sector’s suppliers being both on-site contractors and off-site support (i.e. manufacturing Australian conveyor belts and pulleys; steel and construction specialists; earthmoving equipment sales and maintenance) and customers (i.e. road construction and maintenance, earthmovers, concrete plants, builders, plumbers, garden supplies, sporting facilities).



Conundrum & contractors at Wallan Concrete 2021

Specialised jobs in the wider community, and our employment numbers will further increase as the interlinked head office, concrete plant and transport depot come online in the Mitchell Shire. More job opportunities for more locals!



GET THE REAL FACTS, NOT THE MYTHS ABOUT OUR QUARRY!

Myth: The quarry would be visible throughout Wallan

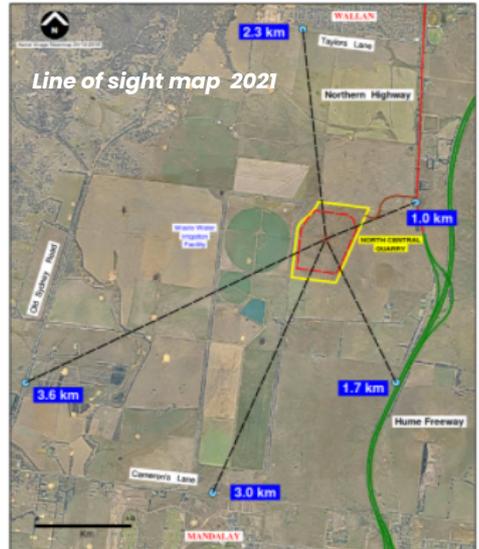
Reality:

The quarry will be located immediately west of Spring Hill, below the contour RL330 to protect the landscape value of the area as requested by Mitchell Shire Council.

A wide range of measures were taken in the original design of the site concerning line of sight, orientation, access road positioning, building/plant heights and the positioning of the crushing plant 20+ metres below ground level.

The quarry’s design is the cumulation of Conundrum Holdings many years of experience, supported by consultants skilled in pit design and vegetation selection, and crosschecked through 3D modelling.

These measures will be part of the continuous improvement model seeing modifications made throughout the working life of the quarry to respond to any potential issues identified by employees and our community.



Information Sheet – North Central Quarry

GET THE REAL FACTS, NOT THE MYTHS ABOUT OUR QUARRY!

Myth: The quarry will always be blasting – all day everyday

Reality:

No! We expect in the order of 16–29 blasts per year or an average of twice a month. The nominated times are to ensure we can respond safely to weather, explosives supply chain and onsite conditions. Blast duration is over in a matter of seconds, while the warning sequence (including) safety sirens, lasts only a few minutes.

With long term experience in blasting, the industry and Conundrum Holdings have highly skilled technicians conducting the exercise in a controlled manner, and have committed to profiling, line boring, videoing and monitoring for air blast overpressure and ground vibration for all shots.

Like all quarrying work, this process is heavily regulated by WorkSafe and Earth Resources Regulation with records available to them at all times.



Check out a video of one of our recent blasts at <https://conholdings.com.au/north-central-quarry/> in the 'For the Record' section.

Myth: Trucks will be moving at all hours, driving down local streets

Reality:

The quarry's entrance will intersect directly onto the Northern Highway, as circled in blue.

No shire roads are proposed as part of the access route. All traffic will use a VicRoads approved, purpose-built, sealed and signalised access road, to the Northern Highway and Hume Fwy, both part of the HML Arterial Road System (built to withstand heavy vehicles).

Sales (when on-road trucks attend the site) is limited to 6am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 7am to noon on Saturday.

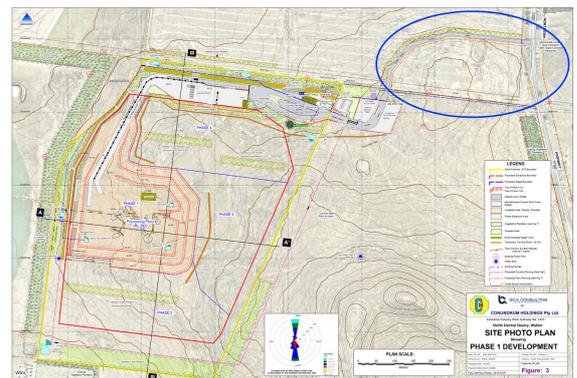
North Central Quarry is projected to introduce 50 to 60 truck trips per day over the first decade, a fractional increase on the Northern Highway which ALREADY carries approximately 21,500 vehicles per day.

Customers require materials in the early part of the day with over 85% of truck movements done before 2pm avoiding the PM peak. Also, up to 80% of trucks will be travelling to and from Melbourne, therefore reducing the need to travel through Wallan.

We need to meet our social responsibilities with respect to climate and the carbon footprint and this site will assist by utilising those basalt resources as close as practical to the end user.

On top of that, we understand the construction of the Watson Street diamond interchange has been announced by the Hon. Alan Tudge on August 4, 2020 with \$50 million of federal funding being made available.

Following the Federal Election in May 2022, member for McEwen Rob Mitchell confirmed Anthony Albanese and the Federal Labor Government have committed to 'prioritising the Wallan ramps'



Information Sheet - North Central Quarry

GET THE REAL FACTS, NOT THE MYTHS ABOUT OUR QUARRY!

Myth: Quarry dust will be blown everywhere

Reality:

The current and future communities, and wind and environmental factors were analysed and assessed during the site's design, with the noise and dust reports demonstrating compliance.

The nearest quarry face to residential housing areas exceeds the EPA recommended 500m separation distance.

As committed to in the Work Plan and tested in the Dust Impact Assessment, the following control measures will be undertaken:

- Weather monitoring and associated management.
- Routine dust and noise monitoring on site.
- Land buffers, vegetation screens, and embedding the crushing plant below the skyline.
- Dust suppression and extraction during drilling, and suppressions prior and following blasts in dry conditions.
- Water storage and suppression which includes a full-time water cart.
- Operation and maintenance of water delivery system.
- Sealing quarry entrance road from the Northern Highway to past the weigh-bridge complex.
- Extensive training, auditing and minimal disruption of the area.



Myth: The quarry will become a tip

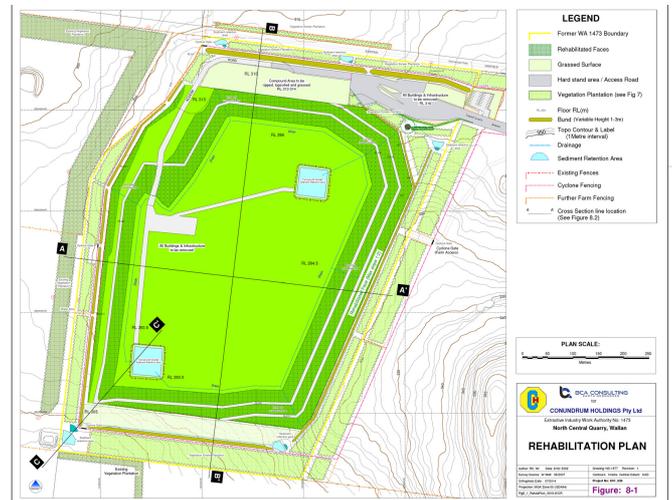
Reality:

No.

The site has already been deemed 'not for waste' and will be rehabilitated and beautified adding value to the area and a wonderful parkland legacy. A quarry is the most natural and best-use lifecycle of the land right now, with PSP housing still decades away from the site.

The picture right (**Rehabilitation Plan 2022**) shows the rehabilitated quarry site as shown in our Work Plan.

- Now - Clearly green rural farmland.
- Soon - Short term quarry.
- Then - Beautification and rehabilitation.
- Life - Housing in keeping with known PSP timelines.
- Legacy - Site maximised, multiple uses, homes and families.



Information Sheet - North Central Quarry

GET THE REAL FACTS, NOT THE MYTHS ABOUT OUR QUARRY!

Myth: Basalt contains silica and can cause silicosis

Reality:

There have been no detectable levels of crystalline silica present in the samples analysed.

Most Victorian basalts contain olivine. In July 2014 Bell Cochrane and Associates undertook a petrographic examination of sections of diamond drill core samples taken from the site. There was no crystalline silica present in any of the 30 samples examined under the microscope which confirmed there would be no risk of silicosis due to quartz (crystalline silica) from the basalts at this site.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stated in 2020 that 'it is accepted that monitoring for airborne respirable crystalline silica (RCS) is not required as the resource being extracted is not expected to contain RCS'.

Work Safe Victoria's 'Dust containing crystalline silica in the extractive industry' article on their website states crystalline silica (quartz) is found in stone products such as reconstituted stone, granite and sandstone, however they do not list basalt.

In a recent statement to the quarrying industry, Work Safe also declared 'while basalt may contain between 45% and 63% silica it is predominantly amorphous not crystalline. The crystalline silica component of basalt is known to be less than 1%. As such the specific regulations regarding crystalline silica substances (such as analysis of material, provision of information to customers, provision of information to employees/job applicants) does not apply to extracting, processing, and selling basalt from quarries.

Safe Work Australia's 'Adopted National Exposure Standards for Atmospheric Contaminants in the Occupational Environment' does not list basalt as an atmospheric contaminant, e.g a hazardous substance.



Drill Core samples 2014

This is about choice and opportunity - real jobs for real people

WANT THE REAL STORY, TO MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND?

CONTACT US DIRECT, WE ARE A LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS!

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