

## Submission against SERA proposal – South Gippsland (Nyora) dated: 20/07/2020

As quoted in the proposal:

“The Strategic Extractive Resource Areas (SERA) pilot project aims to ensure quarries can supply raw materials well into the future while avoiding land use conflicts. The project will trial the establishment of SERAs that will define the locations of strategic state resources while considering other existing land uses, environmental assets and community interests.”

The above statement is a conflict within itself, as the community was never consulted with prior to the proposal being drafted. Land owners unwilling to sell their properties or be surrounded by more quarries than are already here, would create a damaging industrial type setting in this rural farming area, and would place land owners who do not wish to pack up and leave, into a position of significant economical disadvantage.

There are at least 6 quarries operating in the vicinity of the SERA planning provisions area South Gippsland, which are of significant magnitude and capable of supplying an adequate portion of material for the building industry. It is unjust that one area should be solely responsible for the supply of material (i.e. sand – South Gippsland, Nyora) for the entire Melbourne building industry – the proposal within itself says that the resources ‘may’ be required by the community for future use indicating no immediate requirement, but rather get their ‘teeth’ into legislation surrounding land use in the proposed area.

The roads in this area barely cope with the amount of current heavy vehicles used to transport material from existing quarries, seriously affecting it’s residents. Roads area being destroyed on a daily basis, which are used by many residents in the South Gippsland area for daily commute. The additional heavy vehicles would be a danger to the community and as the rail line is currently being removed, it is evident that rail transportation is an option not being considered as part of any future proposal.

There is a significant amount of protected Flora and Fauna in the proposed area, with many protected species relying on this habitat for protection and future existence. The proposed SERA planning area would destroy this habitat. Refer quoted statement “environmental assets” of which there are very strong genuine community support groups – and as such I find it hard to believe that nature conservation is not a consideration by the South Gippsland Shire, being an area known for it’s native inhabitants and areas rich in native flora and fauna.

Residents, who live in this rich rural area surrounded by bushland & native forests, chose to do so for a reason; to live, farm and raise families in this rural farming region of South Gippsland. However there is a price to pay for living here – which are property rates. Rates in South Gippsland have risen significantly over the last 10 years. How could these already expensive rates be justified if the proposal goes ahead? The South Gippsland Shire has lost touch with its residents and has complete disconnection shown by lack of communication, support and transparency regarding major community impact such as the SERA proposal.

I am opposed to any future planning of Resource Extraction in the Nyora – South Gippsland vicinity and believe as a rate payer, I am entitled to oppose any such submission by the Victorian Government when they are in partnership with the South Gippsland Shire.