



## **SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT – DRAFT**

**Proposed Bunyip North Quarry**

**Prepared for Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd**

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# 1 Introduction

This report outlines existing social conditions in the areas potentially affected by the Proposed Bunyip North Quarry (the Project). The Project is located in Bunyip North, Victoria, approximately 80km south-east of Melbourne and 3km north of the Princes Freeway on land which is currently utilised for grazing purposes. The Project Site has been identified by Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd (Hanson) as containing a granite rock resource of a quality and volume to allow for commercial extraction. Hanson propose to extract approximately 130 million tonnes of granite aggregate products from the site using open cut mining techniques, over a period of approximately 69 years.

The social effects of the Project would be concentrated in areas near the Project. In particular the project may affect the use and enjoyment of private properties, community facilities and open space areas and roads within 1 to 2 kilometres of the Project. These areas are used and valued by residents of Bunyip North, Garfield North and Tonimbuk (the Rural North), and those living within the townships of Bunyip and Garfield, which comprise the primary Study Area for the SIA. Community resources within the Study Area are also used by people who live beyond this area.

## 2 Population and settlement

### 2.1 Introduction

The Project is situated in Bunyip North approximately 80 kilometres south-east of the Melbourne CBD. Bunyip North, and the adjacent suburbs of Garfield North and Tonimbuk (the Rural North) are located within the Greater Melbourne boundary. However, land within these suburbs is not zoned for urban purposes (the subject site and its immediate surrounds are zoned Green Wedge Zone 1) and accommodates a mix of rural residential properties, horse studs, agricultural businesses, etc. To the south of Project is the Princes Freeway and beyond this the urban settlements of Bunyip and Garfield. This section outlines the size and characteristics of the population of these areas.

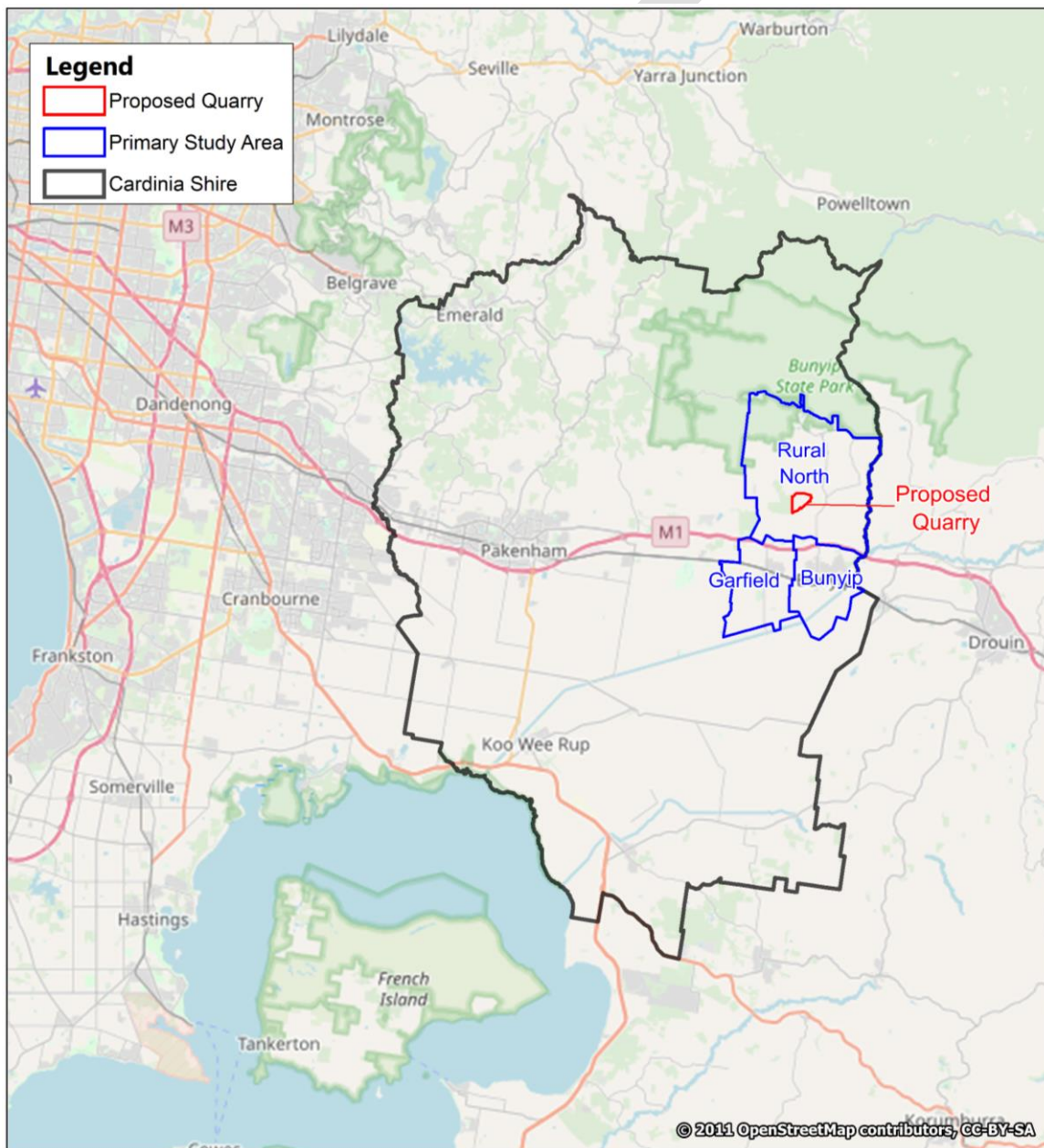


Figure 2-1: Study Area for the SIA

## 2.2 Population Size and Growth

As at 2016, the population of the Rural North area (Bunyip North, Garfield North and Tonimbuk) was 514 people, reflecting a low-density settlement pattern in the area. Population forecasts are not available for the Rural North. However, the population of the Rural North is unlikely to grow substantially into the future, as there is limited potential for development of new dwellings in the area. In contrast, the populations Bunyip and Garfield are projected to grow a rate of 2.3 to 2.8% per annum to 2036, reflecting the presence of smaller development sites and infill development opportunities in the towns.

Population growth projected for areas near the Project site is relatively minor compared with that forecast for Cardinia Shire as a whole. Growth in Cardinia Shire will be driven largely by development within Melbourne's South East Growth corridor, which extends along the Princess Highway to Pakenham.

Table 2-1 Population Growth – Selected Areas

	2016	2026	2036	Change to 2036	Ave Annual Growth
Rural North	514				
Bunyip	2,534	3,491	4,024	1,490	2.3%
Garfield	1,825	2,684	3,186	1,361	2.8%
Cardinia Shire	97,608	154,741	195,457	97,849	3.5%
Victoria	6,173,172	7,495,194	8,722,766	2,549,594	1.7%

Source: VIF 2016

## 2.3 Demography

Table 5.3 provides a selection of demographic data for the areas surrounding the Project and Victoria. The data show:

- The population of the Rural North is older than the comparison areas and comprises relatively few children aged 0 to 4 and a large proportion of older adults aged 50 or more.
- The majority of households living in the Rural North are family households, a relatively large proportion of which are couples with no children. There were relatively few single parent families living in the Rural North area at the time of the last Census.
- Individual and household incomes in the Rural North were substantially higher than observed for Bunyip and Garfield and Victoria as a whole. Consistent with this, in the Rural North unemployment was lower, educational attainment higher and a greater proportion of people worked in managerial or professional (white collar) occupations compared with Bunyip and Garfield.
- Home ownership was very high in the Rural North, and also high in Bunyip and Garfield compared with Cardinia Shire and Victoria.
- The population of the Rural North includes a relatively small proportion of persons born overseas, and few residents speak English 'not well' or 'not at all'.
- A large proportion of those who lived in the Rural North at the time of the last Census reported living at the same address for at least the preceding 5 years.



Overall, Census data for the Rural North are suggestive of a population comprised by many relatively affluent, mature families and empty nesters, who have moved to the area to enjoy a low-density, rural setting in relatively close proximity to Melbourne and smaller townships. In contrast, the townships of Bunyip and Garfield are populated by a range of households, including families with young children, seeking relatively affordable accommodation in a location which offers convenient access to urban amenities, in a rural setting.

Consistent with the impression provided by the Census data outlined in Table 5-2, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) scores for Statistical Area level 1s (SA1s) near the Project site show that there the population of the Rural North is relatively affluent (see Figure 5-2).

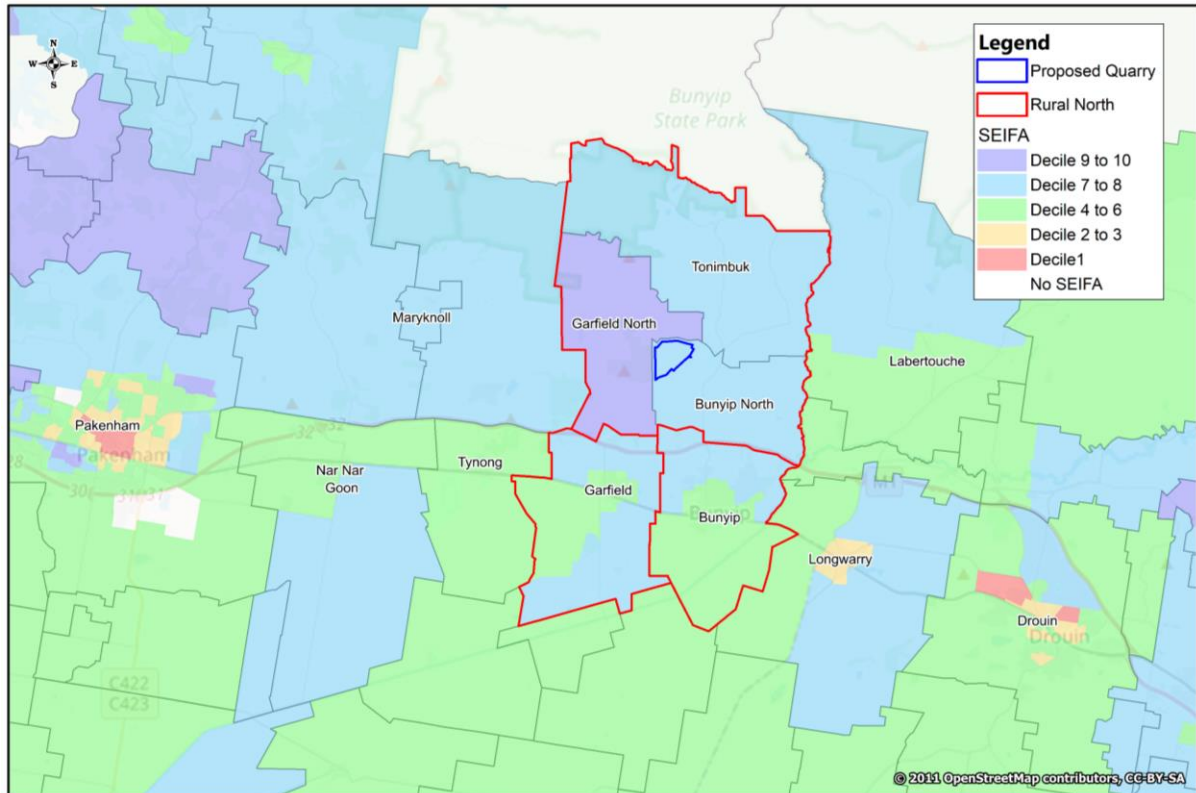


Figure 2-2: SEIFA Index of Disadvantage Ratings near the Project Site.

Table 2-2: Selected demographic indicators

		Rural North	Bunyip	Garfield	Cardinia	Victoria
AGE	0 to 4	0.7%	5.5%	6.8%	8.3%	6.3%
	5 to 11	11.1%	11.4%	10.4%	10.7%	8.6%
	12 to 17	9.5%	9.2%	8.9%	8.2%	6.9%
	18 to 24	5.9%	7.3%	7.8%	8.8%	9.5%
	25 to 34	6.3%	9.6%	10.6%	14.6%	15.0%
	35 to 49	17.9%	20.7%	19.1%	21.0%	20.4%
	50 to 69	36.1%	24.8%	26.2%	20.7%	22.7%
	70+	12.5%	11.5%	10.1%	7.7%	10.7%
	Median Age	49	40	39	34	37
HOUSEHOLDS	Household Size	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6
	Lone Person Household	18.4%	19.1%	19.8%	18.6%	24.7%
	Group Household	1.7%	1.9%	1.7%	2.3%	4.5%
	Family Household	79.9%	79.1%	78.5%	79.1%	70.8%
FAMILIES	Couple family no children	36.6%	29.1%	29.6%	25.7%	25.9%
	Couple family with children	39.9%	40.5%	39.7%	39.9%	32.8%
	One parent family	3.4%	8.7%	8.5%	12.6%	10.8%
	Other family	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	1.3%
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING	Unemployment Rate	1.1%	3.5%	3.4%	5.5%	6.6%
	Labour Force Participation	65.4%	59.9%	61.5%	65.7%	64.5%
	White Collar	38.2%	26.0%	27.3%	26.7%	37.4%
	Completed Year 12	42.8%	37.9%	40.8%	48.1%	59.3%
	Bachelor Degree or Higher	15.5%	10.5%	11.4%	13.8%	24.3%
INCOME	Median Personal Income	\$718	\$607	\$620	\$680	\$576
	Personal Income <\$400	30.7%	30.8%	33.0%	30.9%	33.4%
	Median Household Income	\$1,764	\$1,468	\$1,382	\$1,497	\$1,124
	Household Income <\$650	11.6%	19.2%	19.8%	15.7%	25.7%
DWELLINGS	Separate house	100.0%	88.6%	97.7%	91.6%	73.5%
	Semi-detached, townhouse	0.0%	7.9%	0.0%	7.5%	14.3%
	Flat, unit or apartment	0.0%	3.5%	2.3%	0.4%	11.7%
TENURE	Fully owned	45.6%	34.9%	37.4%	25.0%	33.2%
	Being purchased	42.2%	50.0%	50.0%	50.3%	36.3%
	Rented	10.6%	13.1%	11.9%	23.4%	29.6%
	Public/Social Housing	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	3.0%
ETHNICITY	Born Overseas	10.9%	8.6%	9.3%	20.2%	30.4%
	Speaks other language	1.6%	1.9%	3.1%	12.0%	27.7%
	Poor or no English	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	1.3%	4.8%
CARS	Household Owns a Car	100.0%	95.9%	98.2%	97.1%	91.9%
INTERNET	Internet @ dwelling	84.5%	83.7%	84.8%	88.6%	86.0%
SAME ADDRESS	5 Years Ago	81.2%	63.8%	65.4%	52.8%	58.2%

Source ABS Census 2016



## 3 Community resources

This section describes the community resources relied on by individuals and groups who live and visit locations potentially affected by the Project.

### 3.1 Residential Amenity

Housing is a key community resource, and for the owners, a substantial private asset. Housing provides shelter and supports different lifestyle aspirations. Housing density in the Rural North area is relatively low and dwellings are situated on larger blocks providing a rural and/or bushland setting. A relatively high proportion of properties in the area have been developed to include equestrian facilities.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 5-1 shows the distribution of residential dwellings near the Project. As the Figure shows, there are 115 residences located within 2 kilometres of the Project Boundary, 24 of these being within 500 metres and eight being within 150 metres. Residents of these dwellings and others throughout the rural north rely on retail opportunities, services and rail transport available to the south in Bunyip and Garfield (see Figure 6-2).

The Community Survey asked survey respondents to describe in their own words what they value about their local area. The majority of comments provided by those living near the Project and throughout the Rural North relate to the area's peaceful, quiet and/or tranquil atmosphere (see Table 2-1). Other attributes such as scenic beauty, an abundance of natural flora and fauna and clean country air and environment, were also commonly mentioned in the responses (often together). In addition, a notable proportion of respondents mentioned that they value low levels of traffic on local roads, which makes these roads suitable for activities such as walking and horse riding. Relatedly, 3.0% of respondents (5.3% of those living north of the Princes Highway) indicated that they value engaging in equestrian activities in the local area, whether on private properties, local roads or at the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre (TEC).

For many respondents, these attributes combined with good access to facilities and services and the presence of a well-connected and safe rural community, make their local area *special place* in which to live. To illustrate:

*Tranquillity, wild life, mountains and tracks to walk/climb. Clean air. Country living within commuting distance to the city (Survey respondent).*

*Peace. Sound of the wildlife. Quiet roads and township. Away from the hustle and bustle of larger cities and towns (Survey respondent).*

*The peaceful amenity of the area, the clean air, the silence apart from the birdsong and the fresh clean rainwater filling our tanks for our water supply (Survey respondent).*

*The peace & quiet. Away from the noise & hustle & bustle of larger towns. Also the clean fresh air and native animals & trees (Survey respondent).*

<sup>1</sup> Cardinia Shire (2014) Equestrian Strategy

Table 3-1 Valued Attributes of the Local Area - Most Commonly Mentioned Attributes

	Rural North	Other	All
Peace, Quiet and Tranquility	81.6%	55.2%	65.2%
Scenic Beauty	55.3%	46.4%	49.8%
Natural Flora and Fauna	50.0%	33.6%	39.8%
Clean Environment	36.8%	17.6%	24.9%
Rural community and lifestyle	31.6%	37.6%	35.3%
Mt Cannibal Reserve	13.2%	9.6%	10.9%
Low levels of traffic	19.7%	16.0%	17.4%
Suitability for equestrian activities	5.3%	1.6%	3.0%
Safe	5.3%	2.4%	3.5%
Access to Urban Amenity (including Melbourne)	2.6%	6.4%	5.0%

Source: Community Survey

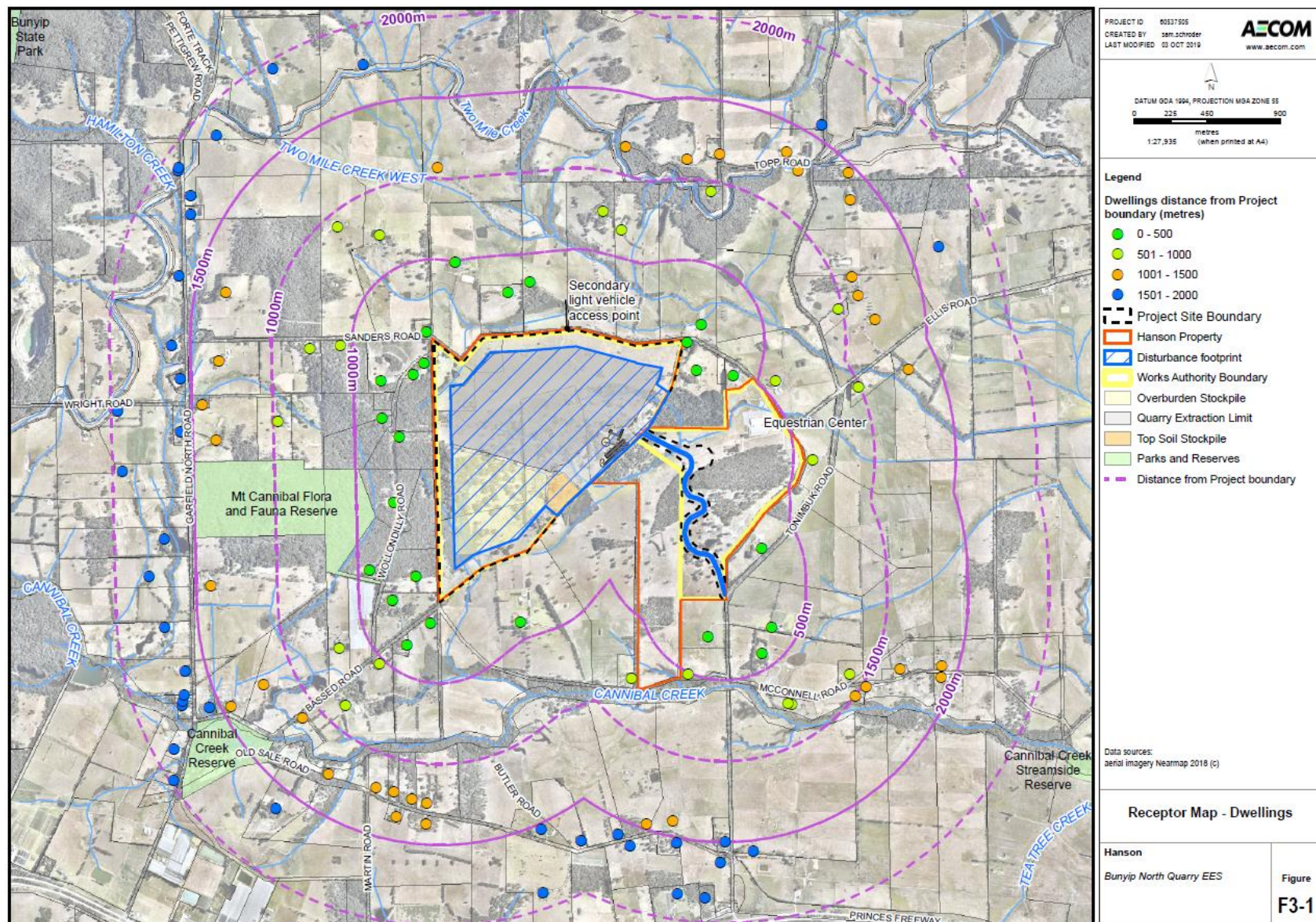


Figure 3-1: Residential Dwellings Near the Project



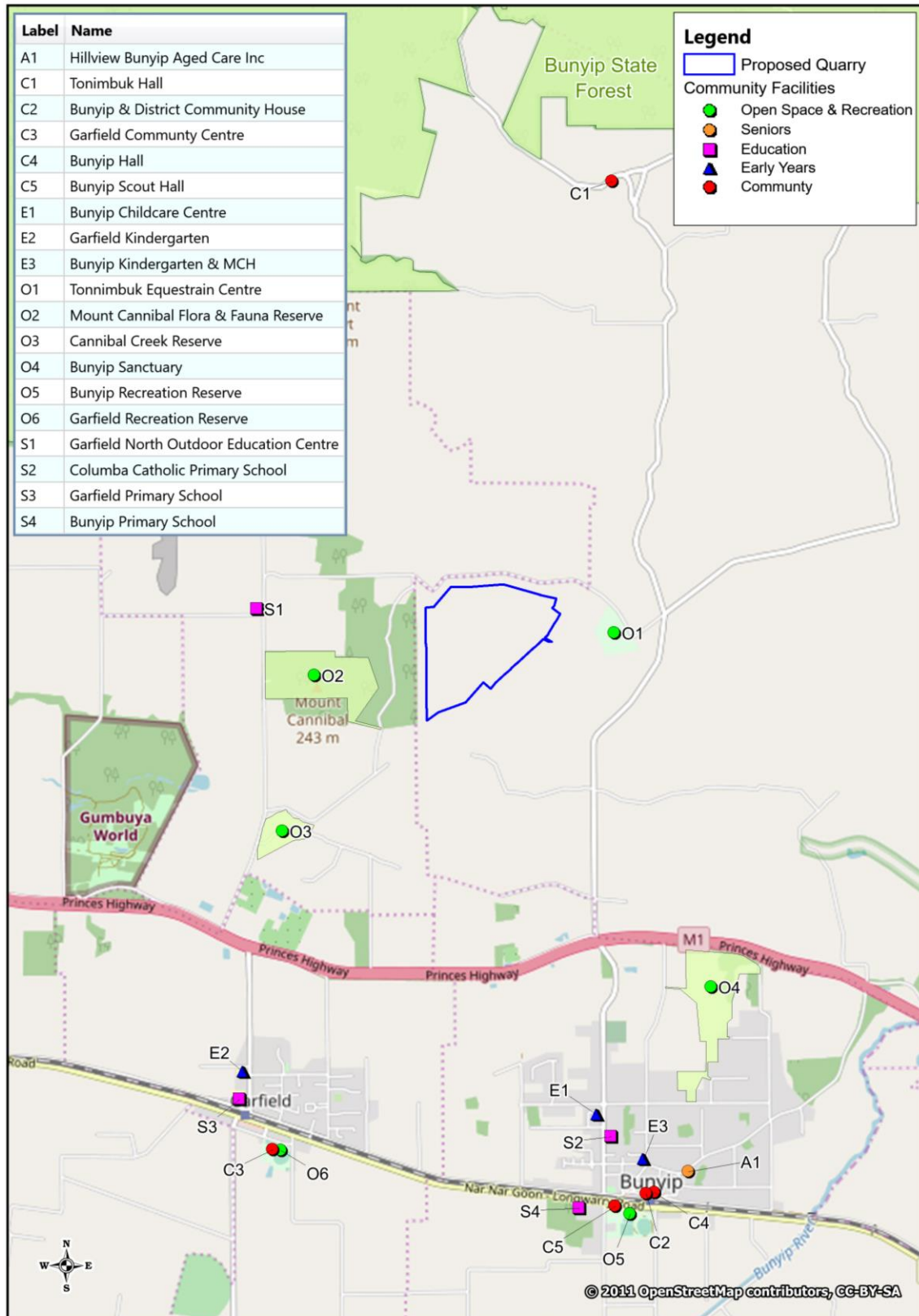


Figure 3-2: Community Resources

## 3.2 Mount Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve

Mount Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve is an approximately 53-hectare bushland reserve which incorporates Mount Cannibal (see Figure 6-2, O2). The reserve includes a 2.2-kilometre walking trail, two main lookouts, car park and picnic ground which includes seating, a children's playground and public toilets. The reserve is managed by Cardinia Shire with the assistance of a not for profit community group, Friends of Mount Cannibal. The group has produced an information booklet on the flora and fauna with the reserve and self-guided walking tour with supporting audio. The Friends of Mount Cannibal website highlights the variety of flora and fauna which can be found within the reserve, and indicates that at least 49 native orchid species can be found within the reserve, leading to its identification as a site of significance by the Australian Native Orchid Society.

Cardinia Shire undertook a survey of vehicle entries into the reserve carpark for a four-week period starting 24 February and ending 23 March, 2018. Over the period 2,745 vehicles entered the reserve carpark (686 per week or 98 per day), indicating that the reserve is well used. Moreover, the survey did not capture visitors who parked outside the reserve carpark, or who walked or rode to the reserve.

Approximately 11% of respondents to the community survey referenced Mount Cannibal Reserve (unprompted) (see Table 2-1) as a feature of the local area that they value. These respondents indicated that Mount Cannibal Reserve is a special for them due to its peaceful ambience, the views it offers and the variety of flora and fauna which can be observed there. To illustrate:

*I value Mt Cannibal in particular. I think it is a treasure, it is a peaceful, tranquil spot in this busy hurried world. It's a place where I can enjoy looking at nature, the wildlife such as the wallabies, kangaroos, koalas, birdlife, as well as the beautiful flora. I particularly am interested in the huge variety of native orchids that are found there. Some 55 species of orchids are found there some of which are rare and endangered. As I said the place is a treasure (Survey respondent).*



Figure 3-3: Mount Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve – View from Northern Lookout

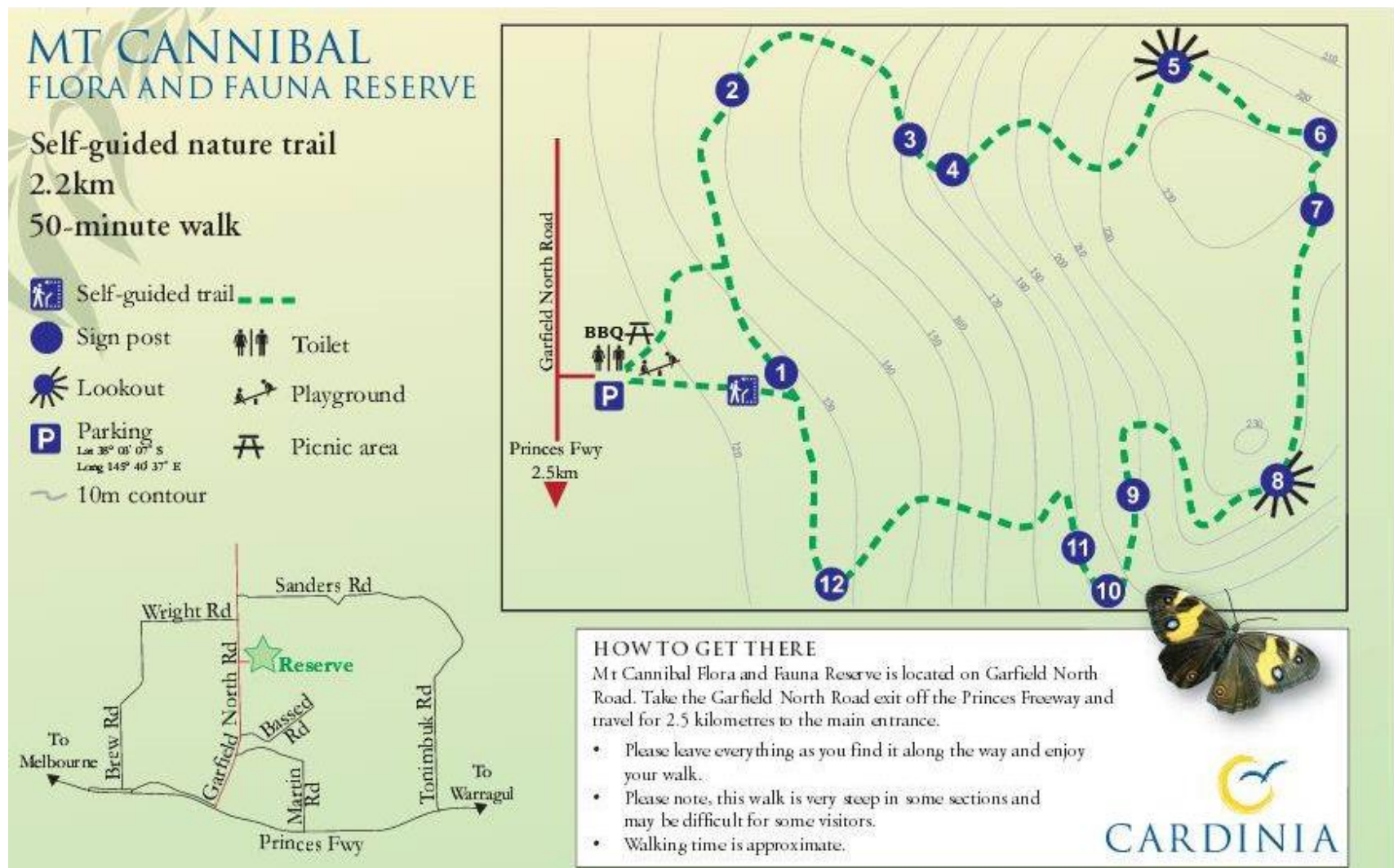


Figure 3-4: Mount Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve – Trail Map



### 3.3 Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre

The Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre is a privately owned regional scale<sup>2</sup> equestrian centre (see Figure 6-2, O1). The facility is situated on a 60-hectare site, and comprises two indoor arenas, two outdoor arenas, grass arenas, stables and yards, and a cross country course.

The venue has capacity to accommodate 84 horses in stables and 10 in undercover yards and a further 200 horses can be accommodating in temporary yards on the site. The facility is used primarily to host equestrian events, some of which attract competitors from across Australia and internationally. Events hosted at the facility occur mainly on weekends, and during the week the facility is periodically made available for casual use. Most events conducted at the facility are equestrian events, however other events such as farm dog competitions have also been hosted. The largest and most significant event held at the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre is the Tonimbuk Horse Trials which is held in March and attracts competitors from across Australia.

The facility is owned by Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd. Hanson leases the facility to the Tonimbuk Horse Trial Committee a not for profit community group comprised of local community members and people with knowledge in the hosting of equestrian events. The committee manages the facility day to day, and makes decisions regarding how it is used, hiring fees, etc.

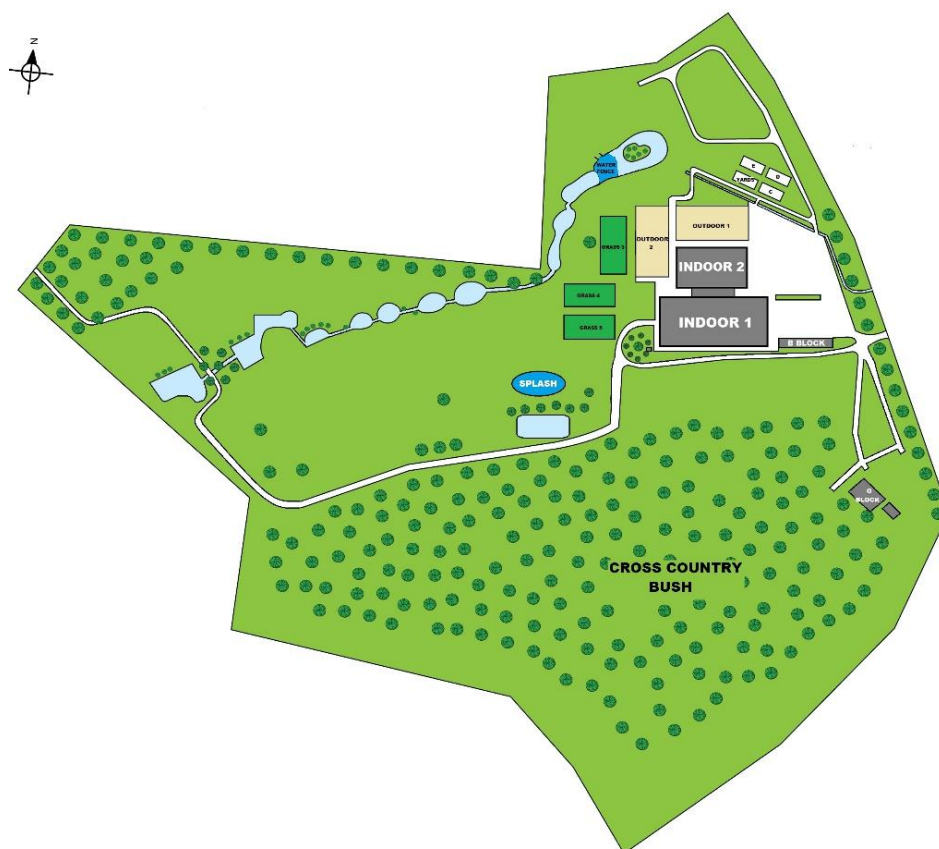


Figure 3-5: Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre – Site Map

<sup>2</sup> Cardinia Shire (2014) Equestrian Strategy

### 3.4 Other Equestrian Resources

Participation in equestrian activities is high within the local community and numerous private properties have equestrian facilities. In addition, a public equestrian reserve is located within Cannibal Creek Reserve (see Figure 6-2, O3 and Figure 6-6) and this facility receives a high level of formal and casual use.

The local community also uses local roads and bushland areas for horse riding. In recognition of this use, the Cardinia Shire Equestrian Strategy (2014) identifies an on-road horse riding route linking Cannibal Creek Reserve, Tonninbuk Equestrian Centre and Bunyip State Park (see Figure 6-6)

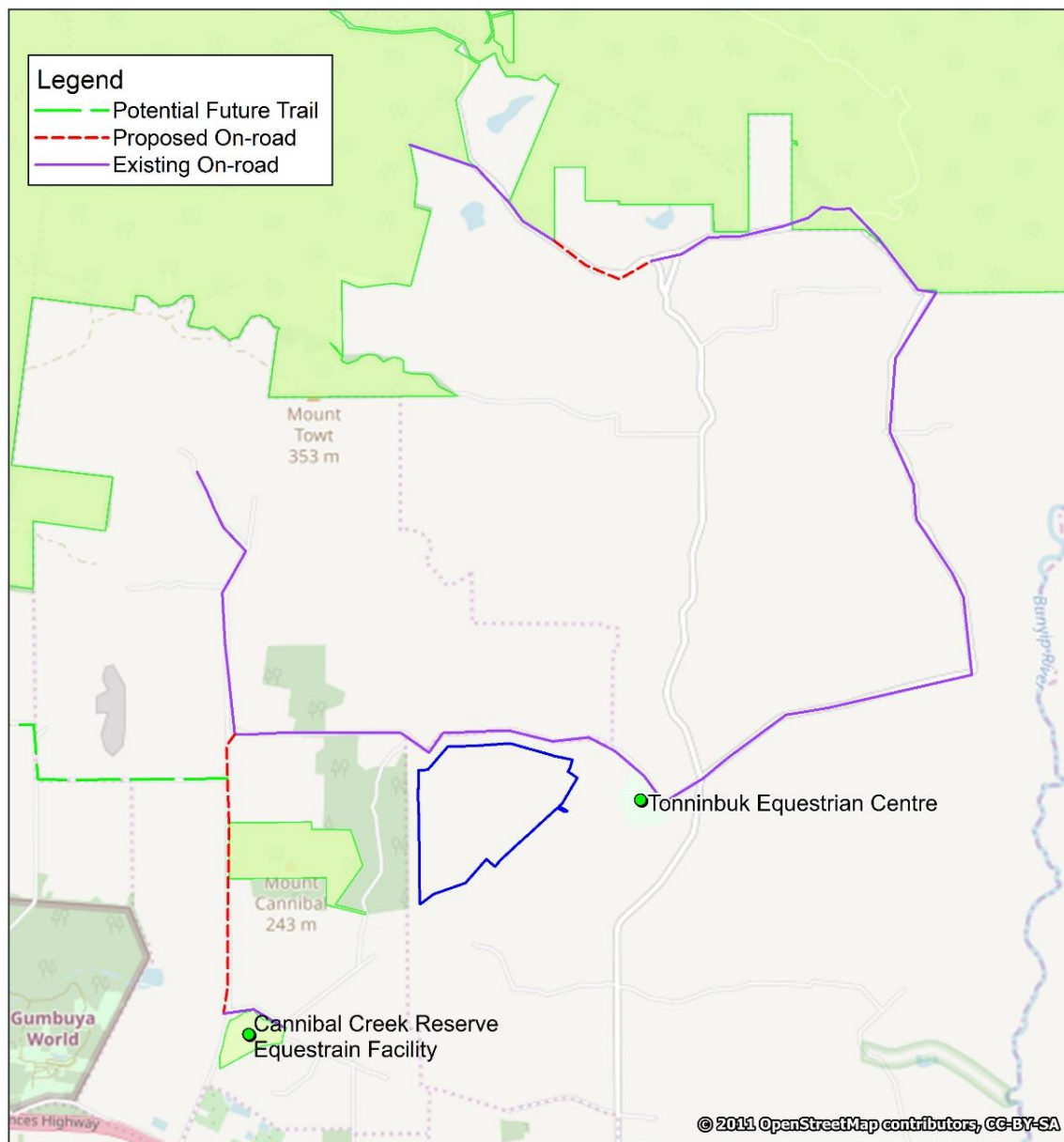


Figure 3-6: Public Horse-Riding Trails Near the Project

## 4 Reactions to the Proposal

### 4.1 Introduction

The views of the local community and relevant interest groups with regard the proposal were explored via:

- Attendance at community open forums and analysis of data collected by Hanson at the forums.
- A survey of residents.
- Interviews with selected community groups and other stakeholders.

### 4.2 Potential Dis-benefits

Attendees of Community Open Days run by the applicant raised a number of issues and concerns relating to the Project. These potential dis-benefits of the Project were explored further using the community survey to determine whether and to what extent the concerns are held within the broader community and/or whether there are other commonly held concerns.

#### 4.2.1 Survey - Closed Question

In Question 2(a), respondents were asked to indicate how concerned they are (if at all) regarding a number of potential dis-benefits of the proposed quarry. As Figure 2-1 shows, the majority of respondents reported that they are 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned' about all the nominated potential dis-benefits of the Project. For example, 86.4% of respondents reported being 'extremely concerned' about the potential impact of the proposed quarry on local air quality, and a further 6.3% reported being 'very concerned'. Very few respondents reported that they are 'not at all concerned' about the potential dis-benefits and there were no significant differences between residents living in the Rural North and the remainder of the respondent group in terms of the level of concern expressed.

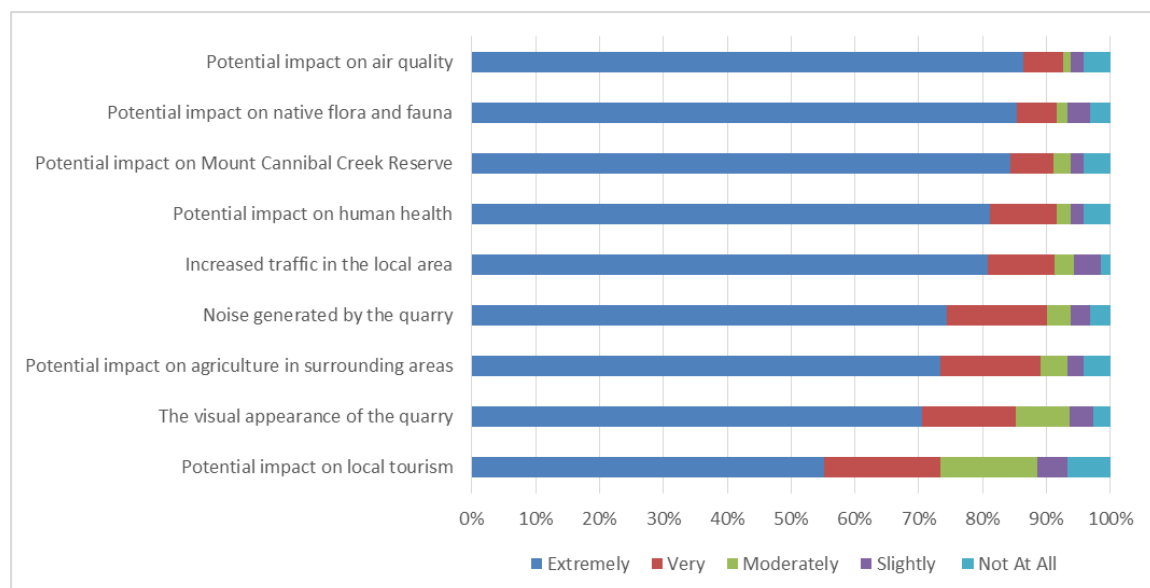


Figure 4-1: Level of concern about potential negative impacts of the Project

## 4.2.2 Survey Open Ended Comments

### Negative

In Question 2(b) respondents were given the opportunity to explain in their own words, any concerns they have about the proposed quarry. Overall the comments paint a very negative picture of the proposed quarry, suggesting the Project is incompatible with valued attributes of the local area, such as a tranquillity, scenic beauty, abundant native flora and fauna, safe local roads, clean air, etc. Many respondents explained that they have purposefully moved to the area in search of a quieter, more peaceful lifestyle, and see the quarry as a threat to what they currently enjoy. To illustrate:

*The peacefulness of the area where I have chosen to live is under threat. So many have chosen Bunyip as their choice of residence and don't deserve to now have all their special qualities of life threatened by a huge multinational company (Survey respondent).*

*Residents who live here are here because of the quiet rural/bushland settings, not to live in the middle of a quarry site. The area's amenity will be severely affected and the enjoyment of living here or coming here to visit will be greatly diminished (Survey respondent).*

*Greatly increased numbers of trucks using the roads which is then going to affect the safety of my children being able to walk around town and be able to safely cross the roads. The noise and potential poor air quality created by the quarry is of great concern. We moved to the area from a larger suburb to escape factors such as these. We like to go jogging, bike riding and walking around the area (including in the state forest) and I fear this is going to be greatly impacted by the quarry (Survey respondent).*

Through their comments, respondents expanded on the issues explored in the previous closed form question (a selection of comments are provided in Table 2.1). Overall the comments indicate the following:

- Air Quality – concerns about dust emissions from the quarry were very common among the respondents, who expect that dust will become a nuisance, covering homes, cars, washing on lines, etc. In addition and perhaps more seriously, many respondents are concerned that dust emissions from the proposed quarry may present a health hazard for humans as well as stock and wildlife (who may breathe contaminated air, and/or drink contaminated water).
- Native Flora and Fauna - many respondents see the proposed quarry as a threat to native flora and fauna. Mechanisms linking the project and harm to flora and fauna suggested by the respondents include: release of pollutants, such as silica dust, into the atmosphere and local waterways; noise and vibrations frightening native fauna away; and/or severance of natural wildlife corridors.
- Mount Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve - Concerns were expressed that the quarry would be visible from the peak of Mount Cannibal and that it would create noise and dust which would ruin the tranquil atmosphere of the Reserve. Also, numerous respondents explained they are concerned about the potential of the quarry to interfere with the lifecycle of native flora and fauna that inhabit Mount Cannibal, including native orchids. Also, a small number of respondents raised concerns about the safety of visitors and nearby farmers, who may be at risk if vibrations cause rock movements.
- Human Health – a large number of respondents expressed concern that dust emissions from the quarry may present a health hazard. It was commonly suggested that particulates in the air may present a risk for respiratory health and that toxic chemicals may find themselves into drinking water (via tanks, or natural rivers and aquifers).

- Traffic – one of the most common concerns raised in the comments was the potential impact on traffic increases (in particular heavy vehicle movements) on the safety of the local road network. Many respondents consider that local roads near the proposal site cannot carry large volumes of heavy vehicle traffic safely and are concerned about sharing these roads with trucks. In addition it was commonly reported that the Tonimbuk Road & Princess Freeway intersection is unsafe in its present form, and that large traffic increases would exacerbate the existing issues.
- Noise – another common concern raised was the potential for noise generated by blasting and heavy machinery within the quarry, and trucks accessing the quarry, to detract from the local area's quiet and tranquil rural environment.
- Agriculture - potential implications of the quarry for agriculture in the local area were raised by a number of respondents. The main concerns were the potential for blasting and noise to upset horses and stock, the effect of quarry operations on local water quality (ground and surface water), and also the loss of productive agricultural land as the quarry expands.
- Visual – the potential visual impact of the quarry was commonly reported as being detrimental to the amenity of the local area, which is considered to be visually beautiful.
- Tourism – several respondents indicated that tourists visit the local area to experience the scenic and tranquil environment, with Mount Cannibal being a major drawcard. These respondents fear that if the quarry diminishes the appeal of the area, this will have flow on consequences for existing businesses.

In addition to the issues explored in the previous closed form question, respondents used the open ended question to raise other issues, namely:

- The Planning Process – several respondents indicated that the quarry proposal has been the source of great stress and anxiety. Issues such as a perceived lack of clarity regarding the nature and timing of the Project, as well as feelings of resentment regarding the allegedly covert manner in which the subject site was acquired, have taken their toll on particular families and individuals. Some indicated home renovations have been put on hold, and/or that they cannot sell their property, leaving them in a holding pattern. For example:

*One of the most concerning aspects of this quarry however is the integrity and honesty of the proponent and the manner of which they will treat this community as their past has shown them to perceive residents as nothing but collateral damage (Survey respondent).*

*Let's talk past tense first. For the last 11 Year's our family has had this quarry threat hanging over our heads. From the moment Hanson bought a neighbours property by using the guise of being a pastoral company and offering an exorbitant price we had concerns about the true intentions of the purchaser. Since it was first mooted that a Quarry was being proposed, I would like to say our family has been in limbo but in reality it has been more a state of perpetual depression. Instead of enjoying retirement my father and mother in law spent most of their days worrying about what effect a project of this size would have on them if it went ahead, not realising the toll it was already taking on them everyday (Survey respondent).*

*Living standards and residential upgrades have been put on hold right from the start even though major modification is required due their ages (Survey respondent).*

- Equestrian Activities – several respondents raised concerns about the impact of the Project on equestrian activities in the local area. Specifically, it was suggested that it would no longer be safe to ride horses on local roads, if heavy vehicle movements increase significantly. Moreover, concerns were raised that noise emissions from the quarry would potentially startle

horses, interfering with equine activities on private property and at the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre. To illustrate:

*Our family rides daily on roads- it will be impossible to continue our activities if there are quarry trucks on our roads (Survey respondent).*

*Pursuing equestrian activities is incompatible with a quarry next door. Horses are very sensitive animals and respond adversely to noise (Survey respondent).*

*I run a business from home enjoyed by many customers who ride their horses on the surrounding roads as well as tow their horse floats. The increased truck traffic is a major concern for the impact it will have (Survey respondent).*

### **Positive**

Not all comments provided under Question 2(b) had a negative tone. For example, one respondent commented: *I don't have any concerns really. With quarries already in the area I don't think it will make much of a difference*; while another made the following comment: *little concern as long as it brings employment to the area*. However, sentiments such as these were rare.

#### **4.2.3 Other Sources**

- Friends of Mount Cannibal were invited to contribute to the SIA. They provided the following feedback in writing: *we consider the Bunyip North Quarry, should it proceed, would irrevocably alter the very high values of Mt Cannibal, its social, environmental and landscape values. There is a high visitation use which is based on the enjoyment on these values.*
- Representatives of the Tonimbuk Horse Trial Committee provided a guided tour of the facility and agreed to be interviewed to assist the SIA. The committee indicated that they are not concerned about the potential for the proposed quarry to interfere with the operation and enjoyment of the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre, due to the separation distance between the Project and the facility, local topography which would screen the Project visually, and the fact that much of the activity that occurs at the facility does so indoors and/or on weekends. Some committee members have direct experience of using an equestrian facility located adjacent to a quarry (Huxtable Road) and on this basis are satisfied that the Project and the equestrian centre can co-exist.



Table 4-1: Selected Responses to Question 2(b)

Issue	Selected Quotes
Potential impact on air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I am also concerned that the air quality may be diminished and small particles will be carried on the wind and deposited in my pool and around my home.</li> <li>- We live only 100 meters or so from the quarry boundary so dust will be over everything.</li> <li>- The dust falling into our roofline and contaminating our drinking water and stock water is a big concern.</li> </ul>
Potential impact on native flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This area is located in a sensitive ecosystem with high degrees of bio-diversity as described by Melbourne Water and other authorities. The native flora and fauna cannot co-exist with a quarrying operation and important wildlife corridors will be broken with the introduction of such large scale industry into native bushland.</li> <li>- The native flora and fauna cannot co-exist with a quarrying operation and important wildlife corridors will be broken with the introduction of such large scale industry into native bushland.</li> <li>- The fate of 40 or more species of native orchids and rare flora with increased dust loads on their leaves and potentially changing the ph. level of their soils, the impact on the frogs, dwarf Galaxia and platypus population in the local waterways.</li> <li>- It is a wonderful mountain that I have been visiting my entire life. You are in another world when you're on top of the mountain. Having the quarry in such close proximity will ruin the whole feel of the mountain, the noise will ruin the tranquillity and I hate to think of the impact on the local wildlife</li> </ul>
Potential impact on Mount Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is a wonderful mountain that I have been visiting my entire life. You are in another world when you're on top of the mountain. Having the quarry in such close proximity will ruin the whole feel of the mountain, the noise will ruin the tranquillity and I hate to think of the impact on the local wildlife.</li> <li>- Mount Cannibal is a State Significant Reserve and holds many endangered plants plus is home to a number of native animals who spread out across the area in their normal activities. The mountain hosts hundreds of people who come to see the orchids, look for koalas and goannas, and walk around the tracks or just picnic. The proposed quarry is just 340 metres away from Mount Cannibal and this is unsafe for people, damaging to the mountain's environment and goes against all that the mountain currently represents in a peaceful and quiet natural setting.</li> <li>- I am also concerned about the impact on Mt Cannibal as this area is very beautiful and peaceful. It is a wonderful asset in our district which will be destroyed by the proximity of the quarry.</li> <li>- I enjoy walking the track at Mt Cannibal and believe the noise and dust will affect the enjoyment for me as well as the well-being of the flora and fauna (Survey respondent).</li> <li>- Leisure time activities and visits to Mount Cannibal will no longer be a pleasurable activity if the view, noise and fresh air is affected by the operations of a quarry so very close to that exact area. I cannot see bird and native animals continuing to live in an area that presents a fear to them (Survey respondent).</li> </ul>
Potential impact on human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our water supply for our property comes from spring fed dams!!! Our drinking water comes from rainfall off our roof therefore we are very concerned about carcinogenic dust fallout from the quarry into our drinking water and onto our pastures</li> <li>- The dust will impact on my lung health and breathing, and using ground water to suppress dust is immoral in this day and age. Our water supply depends upon rain water gathered in gutters that will be polluted; contaminated with dangerous substances such as silica</li> </ul>

Issue	Selected Quotes
Increased traffic in the local area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I am concerned about the toxic dust that will float in the air into my children's lungs</li> <li>- Deeply concerned about the trucks that will be using Tonimbuk Road and Saunders Road and crossing Princes Freeway. This is already a very dangerous intersection with the speed limit at 100km! These roads are a busy school bus route. It is an accident waiting to happen. Local police have voiced concerns about this intersection also. I cannot see how the project can go ahead without this intersection being made into a flyover.</li> <li>- Traffic from the introduction of 500+ truck movements per day cannot be accommodated safely in the area. Access to the highway is already a problem for residents.</li> <li>- I have children who travel twice daily on school buses that use these roads. I am extremely concerned about their safety with the bus competing with numerous quarry trucks daily on very narrow roads.</li> <li>- Traffic intercepting the princess highway. We need a proper overpass/interchange. We don't want a roundabout, it wont be able to accommodate the traffic volumes associated with the quarry.</li> <li>- I am extremely concerned about truck movements especially since big heavy trucks are very destructive when collisions with smaller motor vehicles. They are frightening for their size and because truck drivers seem to be in a hurry and don't always respect smaller vehicles.</li> </ul>
Noise generated by the quarry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Noise from blasting, crushing, truck backing etc. all introduce unacceptable noise into this quiet bush/agricultural setting.</li> <li>- The noise would be the biggest factor, with heavy machinery being used. We would lose our sense of serenity</li> <li>- I am very sensitive to noise and would not cope with the constant sounds a quarry of this size would emit.</li> </ul>
Potential impact on agriculture in surrounding areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permitting this quarry to operate sets a precedent for destroying remaining productive farming land.</li> <li>- Ground water tables may also be affected causing agricultural problems to nearby working farms.</li> <li>- We don't want blasting going on upsetting local businesses with horses or other stock.</li> </ul>
The visual appearance of the quarry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our property is next door but one to the quarry and we can see the quarry land from here which will destroy the beautiful view we have across the Labertouche Valley to the mountains beyond.</li> <li>- At the moment Sanders Road is a beautiful drive that I take visitors along to show off our area. The views are stunning. A huge quarry running half the length of the road will certainly destroy the beauty.</li> <li>- Quarrying in this area is a visual and environmental disgrace.</li> </ul>
Potential impact on local tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The adverse effects on accommodation and restaurant businesses which rely on their peaceful clean and green vistas to appeal to clientele</li> <li>- The proposed quarry will dramatically affect tourism to and the vista from Mt Cannibal.</li> <li>- We do have a lot of tourists who enjoy the art and culture of this area - a quarry would be detrimental.</li> </ul>

## 4.3 Access

Survey respondents were asked to indicate whether they believe the Project would affect their ability to access community activities, services or other opportunities. Of those who responded, 58.5% indicated they believe the Project would affect their ability to access community activities. Among those who indicated they live in the 'Rural North' the percentage who believe the Project would affect their ability to access community activities was significantly higher (72.4%).

Table 4-2 Impact of the quarry project on ability to access community activities, services or other opportunities

	No	Not Sure	Yes
Rural North	10.5%	17.1%	72.4%
Remainder	23.9%	26.5%	49.6%
All	18.7%	22.8%	58.5%
All Activities			23.8%
Mt Cannibal/Nature Reserves			21.8%
Local Roads for Walking, Riding, Cycling			9.8%
Bunyip Town Centre			9.3%
Equestrian Centre			5.2%
Property			2.6%

Source: Community Survey

Respondents who indicated they believe the project would affect their ability to access community activities, services or other opportunities were asked to identify the relevant activities. The most common 'activity' reported by respondents was simply 'all activities' in the local area. Specifically, 23.8% of respondents (40.7% of those who expressed access concerns) indicated that the Project would interfere with their ability to move around and enjoy all parts of their local environment. In support of this view, respondents commonly referred to potential increases in heavy vehicle movements on local roads and the Princes Freeway, and their perception that this would result in reduced road safety. In particular, concerns were raised about the usability and safety of the Tonimbuk Road and Princes Freeway intersection (which some reported is currently unsafe) if heavy vehicle traffic increases in conjunction with the project. To illustrate:

*The increased traffic on the one road in and out of Bunyip North and Tonimbuk, through the already incredibly dangerous intersection with the Princes Highway would be catastrophic and I would have to go kilometres out of my way to avoid it (Survey respondent).*

*Any use of the highway will be severely impacted...every time we leave the house by car, we will be at risk. No trip can be undertaken without crossing parts of the Princes Highway, with hundreds of extra trucks using that road (Survey respondent).*

*Quarry trucks in the area are totally inconsistent with being able to go about our daily lives safely (Survey respondent).*

Concerns about traffic increases on local roads and at the Tonimbuk Road and Princes Freeway intersection were also expressed in the context of accessing Mount Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve, the Bunyip and Garfield townships, the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre and individual homes. Finally, concerns regarding the usability local roads (which are perceived to be very safe at present due to low traffic volumes) for walking, horse riding and/or cycling were reiterated.

## 4.4 Potential Benefits

### 4.4.1 Survey - Closed Question

Question 4(a) of the Community survey asked respondents to rate a number of the Project's 'potential benefits'. The potential benefits chosen for testing were compiled following discussions with the applicant and as such, the question explored the extent to which the local community identifies (or not) the applicant's view of the Project's potential benefits. Some respondents chose not to answer the question (approximately 9%), and challenged the underlying proposition that outcomes nominated in the question are at least potentially beneficial.<sup>3</sup> As a result, the data displayed in Figure 2-1 do not reflect the opinions of all respondents.

As Figure 2.1 shows, a large proportion of respondents (and significantly more Rural North respondents) reported that the nominated potential benefits of the Project would be 'not at all be beneficial' for the local community. To illustrate, in the case of the potential generation of employment and economic activity, 59.2% of those who reported living in the Rural North consider the Project would have no benefit for the local community, whereas only 23.1% of respondents living elsewhere expressed the same opinion.

In contrast, a notable minority of respondents indicated that the nominated potential benefits of the Project would be at least moderately beneficial for the local community (significantly fewer 'Rural North' respondents did so, however) (see Figure 2-2).

		Extremely Beneficial	Very Beneficial	Moderately Beneficial	Slightly Beneficial	Not At All Beneficial
Contribute in meeting the community's need for granite	Rural North	1.4%	4.2%	14.1%	25.4%	54.9%
	Other	4.6%	8.3%	14.8%	28.7%	43.5%
Generate employment and economic activity	Rural North	2.8%	4.2%	9.9%	23.9%	59.2%
	Other	8.3%	12.0%	21.3%	35.2%	23.1%
Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre can continue to operate	Rural North	8.6%	8.6%	28.6%	17.1%	37.1%
	Other	10.2%	22.2%	19.4%	20.4%	27.8%
Financial contributions to local community groups and sporting clubs	Rural North	2.8%	7.0%	14.1%	18.3%	57.7%
	Other	14.2%	17.0%	7.5%	27.4%	34.0%
Local infrastructure investment and improvement	Rural North	2.8%	7.0%	8.5%	18.3%	63.4%
	Other	5.7%	13.2%	21.7%	20.8%	38.7%
Support to local environmental land management initiatives	Rural North	7.2%	11.6%	4.3%	17.4%	59.4%
	Other	16.7%	12.0%	14.8%	21.3%	35.2%

Figure 4-2: Rating of Potential Benefits of the Project

<sup>3</sup> This course was taken even though the question allowed for the response, "not at all beneficial".

## 4.4.2 Survey – Open Ended Comments

### Negative

Respondents were also given the opportunity to explain in their own words, any benefits they see resulting from the quarry project (in Question 4b). Approximately 90% of all respondents who answered the previous closed question relating to potential benefits of the quarry provided a response, a very high response rate for an open-ended question.

While the comments provided touch on different issues, in the main they express the view that the potential benefits of the Project are negligible in the context of the Project's overwhelming dis-benefits, and that in some cases the 'benefits' nominated in the previous closed form question have the potential to be harmful and divisive. To illustrate:

*Those benefits mentioned above are not essential and the community will find the support and resources needed to thrive as a community as it has done for the last 100 years, life will go on without the Quarry, it is not needed to provide the benefits listed above (Survey respondent).*

*These benefits feel like blackmail and I am suspicious of them for that reason. They feel like they are being offered to gloss over the problems the quarry will cause (Survey respondent).*

*The benefits listed are simply attempts to offset the severe drawbacks of the quarry. None of these so called benefits are necessary at all if there is no quarry at this site. If all of these so called benefits were to be implemented and a quarry installed, the nett result would be very negative on all of these parameters. For example, any extra infrastructure made necessary and possible by the advent of the quarry, would only serve to detract from the peaceful rural and natural beauty of the area (Survey respondent).*

*The benefits are negligible in comparison to the net social impact to the community (Survey respondent).*

*No potential benefits would outweigh the current environment that is now enjoyed by so many already (Survey respondent).*

Through their comments, respondents provided commentary on the potential project outcomes explored in the previous closed form question (a selection of comments are provided in Table 2.3). Overall the comments with a negative tone (86% of the comments) indicate the following:

- Community's Need for Granite - the comments do not dispute that granite is a useful and necessary resource. Rather, it is suggested that, due to the location of the proposed quarry, negative impacts for the local community would be severe and/or that other locations would be more appropriate
- Employment and economic activity – the comments indicate that it is expected that the overall level of employment generated by the quarry will be small (10 or so jobs) and that due to the specialised nature of the work, the positions would likely be filled by people living outside the local community.
- Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre (TEC) can continue to operate – the comments suggest that linking the continued operation of the TEC with the quarry project is misleading for a number of reasons:
  - The viability of the TEC is not contingent on the Project.
  - Since Hanson acquired the facility, the TEC has operated at a lowered capacity and is no longer available for use by individual riders as it was previously.

- The quarry would reduce the amenity of the facility, making it a less attractive.
- Financial contributions to local community groups and sporting clubs - the comments indicate that while contributions are positive in and of themselves, they are a token gesture in the context of the negative impacts of the Project and unnecessary to sustain existing community activities. Moreover, contributions received to date have caused division in the community, an unwelcome side effect.
- Local infrastructure investment and improvement – the comments commonly put forward the view that upgraded infrastructure is only required to enable the quarry project, and therefore of little benefit to the local community.
- Support to local environmental land management initiatives – the comments indicate that local environmental groups have managed well in the past without assistance from the proponent, and furthermore that the impact of the proposal on the local environment would exceed any benefit that would be obtained through provision of assistance to local environmental groups.

### **Positive**

Although the large majority of comments were negative (86%) approximately 10% were positive (a further 4% were neutral). The points made in the positive comments were:

- The benefits of mining – a small number of respondents (2) suggest in their comments that granite is a valuable resource which must come from somewhere. One comment emphasised the importance of effective management to ensure that the proposed quarry can co-exist with the existing land uses in the local area.

*I understand we need Granite for road structures (Survey respondent).*

*We, as a State, need quarries to supply rock & product for ongoing infrastructure growth. As a public we expect things to be build & areas to be developed but nobody wants these quarries in their local area. Sometimes we just have to accept non popular things to appease our appetite for growth & a better way of life. We need rock, it has to come from somewhere and as long as it is managed and overseen correctly, and all possible safeguards are put into place, the community and the State, as a whole should benefit (Survey respondent).*

- Employment – some of the comments recognised the importance of employment generating projects for rural communities, for example:

*Job creation as not many opportunities for work in the area with most locals needing to travel some distance to work (Survey respondent).*

*We need employment and the quarry will provide work. Our town needs people if we are going to hang on to our services, doctors, shops etc. employment is very important for our area, our young people need work (Survey respondent).*

- Contributions to the local area – a handful of comments stressed the value of potential contributions to local infrastructure and community groups. In this context, the potential for the project to facilitate the construction of an improved intersection between Tonimbuk Road and the Princess Freeway was raised specifically.

*As a small community we need to open up and allow them to help with improvements to our area, with both environmental and local infrastructure. Financial contributions to our local community groups and school is extremely beneficial to all of us! (Survey respondent).*

*We would benefit if it improved local infrastructure like roads and cross overs at the freeway (Survey respondent).*



*The only benefit I can see would be from an overpass to the highway that will assist with the horrendous traffic that would come with the quarry In the event of an emergency such as Black Saturday, there is only one road out away from the hills for all residents (Survey respondent).*

#### **4.4.3 Other sources**

- Tonimbuk Horse Trial Committee - The committee indicated that while Hanson has been the landlord for the facility, more than \$500,000 has been invested in the maintenance and upgrading of the facility. The committee indicated that revenue generated by the various events and fund-raising activities undertaken by the committee would never have been sufficient to enable this level of investment. While not strictly tied to the Project, the committee indicated that if Hanson was to remain the owner of the site, then it is would enable the continued improvement of the facility overtime.

Table 4-3: Selected Responses to Question 4(b)

Issue	Negative
Contribute in meeting the community's need for granite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The first point is that it is self-evident that granite would result. However, opponents do not say there should not be quarries, they say that Hanson made an appalling choice of location</li> <li>▪ I am sure everyone agrees that the product extracted from such a quarry is useful and is applied to many projects around the state, but it is also widely available in locations all around Gippsland. This whole area is defined by the Government as an area of interest for extractive industry and there are many other potential sites to look at granite extraction, sites that don't have the same bio-diversity risks and don't have 200+ residents nearby. The location chosen by the proponent is just the wrong one.</li> <li>▪ Granite quarry can go elsewhere not at the bottom of such a significant walking trail with native flora and fauna, especially the koala population.</li> </ul>
Generate employment and economic activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This type of employment is specialised and I doubt locals would have the requirements nor the need for this type of work.</li> <li>▪ Employment benefits are the only real positive spin-off here, however quarries tend to only employ small numbers of people, with machinery doing the bulk of the work</li> <li>▪ I don't believe employment will come from the local area. A big company like Hansons will have their own workers move in with them. Again they are trying to con the local community!</li> <li>▪ Quarries run these days with very little on site personnel. There would be very few jobs in the local area.</li> </ul>
Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre can continue to operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Equestrian centre "can continue to operate" - well I hope so!! If the quarry is not here then there will be no question it will operate.</li> <li>▪ The Tonimbuk Equestrian centre is not operating at anything like its previous capacity or standard and is not available to local individuals as it was previously. Blasting and horse riding is not compatible</li> <li>▪ The Equestrian Centre will not operate anywhere near the international standard that it used to whilst any quarry operations are occurring therefore any weekday equestrian activities won't be able to be performed.</li> <li>▪ The importance of the equestrian centre is fundamental to Victoria and the survival of the centre does not require the quarry.</li> <li>▪ Keeping the equestrian centre open is naive, most people don't want to ride amongst the dust and the noise of trucks and even the calmest horses will be spooked by the work in the quarry.</li> </ul>
Financial contributions to local community groups and sporting clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The community is managing without their input, so yes the financial benefits sound great, but at what cost to the environment and landscape.</li> <li>▪ Any money spent in the area is 'bribe' money, disguising the true impact the quarry would have</li> <li>▪ The financial contributions to the community - what are they for? They are of course to compensate us for what we are losing. How about we just don't lose it in the first place.</li> <li>▪ Financial contributions by the developer will not make up for the damage that will be done.</li> <li>▪ The developer is already dividing the community by its targeted sponsorships of local sporting clubs, not appreciated.</li> </ul>
Local infrastructure investment and improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The only infrastructure support provided would be quarry related and would not be required if the quarry does not proceed!</li> <li>▪ Any benefits of investment, economic growth are fiction being used as a disguise to bribe the local community and dress up a very ugly unwelcome proposal.</li> <li>▪ Local infrastructure investment will be needed because of the proposal, to repair damage caused by it, rather than additional benefit.</li> </ul>

Issue	Negative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We live here because we do not value or want more infrastructure, we do not want more businesses or roads. We value piece, quiet and natures environment. No value from this quarry at all.</li> </ul>
Support to local environmental land management initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mt Cannibal reserve. We have managed to maintain it ourselves for this long without the quarry intervening.</li> <li>▪ We would prefer no tampering with the existing environment rather than attempted repairs.</li> <li>▪ I consider the offer to help manage the impact on Mt Cannibal and Cannibal Creek Reserve as another method for getting the project through and wouldn't be necessary if there was no quarry.</li> <li>▪ Financial donation to help the environment is not required except to counteract damage done by the quarry. Locals already support local activities.</li> </ul>

## 4.5 Level of Support for the Project

The preceding discussion outlines community views relating to the benefits and dis-benefits of the Project. Overall, the data show that, while a notable minority of respondents consider that the Project may generate some benefits for the local community, virtually all respondents are concerned about the potential implications of the Project for their rural lifestyle, amenity, health and well-being. In addition, some respondents raised concerns about the implications of the Project for community cohesion.

Question 5 of the Community Survey asked respondents to indicate whether they support or oppose the Project. As the data in Table 2-4 indicate, very few respondents indicated they support the project (4.4%). Indeed, even within the group of respondents who provided positive comments in relation to the potential benefits of the Project (see above), less than half (44%) expressed support for the Project.

In contrast, 90.8% of the respondents indicated that that they 'oppose' or 'strongly oppose' the Project. Consistent with data on the perceived benefits and dis-benefits of the Project, a higher proportion of respondents who reported living in the 'Rural North' indicated that they 'strongly oppose' the Project compared with the remainder of the respondents.

Table 4-4: Support for the Project

	Rural North	Other	Total
Strongly Support	0.0%	3.7%	2.2%
Support	3.9%	0.9%	2.2%
Neutral	0.0%	8.3%	4.9%
Oppose	3.9%	24.1%	15.8%
Strongly Oppose	92.1%	63.0%	75.0%

## 4.6 Cynicism and Mistrust

An underlying theme in many of comments provided by respondents to the community survey and by attendees at community open days, is that they have little faith in the proponent or relevant regulatory authorities to ensure that the proposed quarry is operated in a safe and responsible manner. Likewise, cynicism was commonly expressed regarding promises made to the community in terms the nature and extent of community contributions.

The lack of trust between the proponent and some members of the community has clearly influenced their views regarding the Project and its likely implications for the lifestyles, health and well-being of the local community.

## Appendix 1 – Survey methodology

### Study Area and Notification

The study area for the survey was the state suburbs of Bunyip, Bunyip North, Garfield, Garfield North and Tonimbuk. The parts of the Study Area to the north of the Princes Highway (Bunyip North, Garfield North and Tonimbuk) are referred to as the Rural North throughout this report.

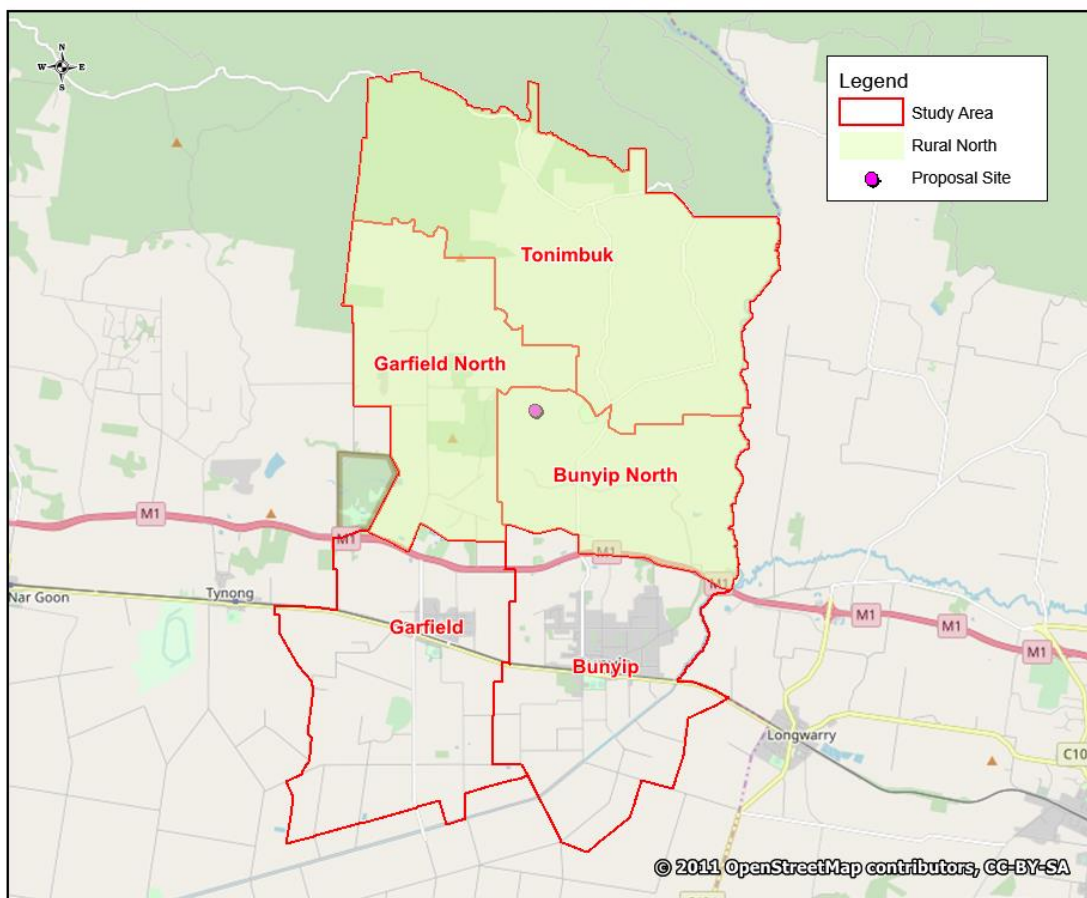


Figure 0-1: Study Area for the Survey

Residents of the Study Area were notified of the survey in the following ways:

- An advertisement in the Bunyip and District Community News, Issue 10/17, 17 October 2017.
- A letter to the household distributed via Australia Post's unaddressed mail service distributed in week beginning 23 October 2017 (1,456 address points).
- A letter to the household delivered by hand to residents of Garfield North (23 November 2017) to fill gaps in the Australia Post service.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Public Place received advice that some residents of Garfield North did not receive the letter distributed via the Australia Post Service. It was decided that a second letter would be distributed via hand to this area to ensure that no households missed out on the opportunity to complete the survey.

### BUNYIP NORTH QUARRY INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Hanson Pty Ltd is seeking approval to develop a granite quarry at Sanders Road in Bunyip North. Public Place is conducting an independent assessment of social impacts, positive and negative, likely to be associated with the proposed quarry. As part of this assessment we are inviting members of the community to complete a community survey. The survey can be completed by any person aged 18 or over in one of two ways:

- ✓ **IN YOUR HOME** – Go to the following web address [www.surveymonkey.com/r/bunyip](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bunyip) and follow the prompts. The survey will be available for you to complete online until 18th November 2017.
- ✓ **AT BUNYIP & DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOUSE** – If you do not have internet access, or would prefer to complete the survey with some assistance, you can book a time to come to the BDCH to complete the survey. If this is your preferred option, please contact Glenn Weston on (03) 9078 4607 to book a time.

In addition to this advertisement, over the next two weeks, all households in Bunyip North and the surrounding area will receive a letter advising them of the survey.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for considering completing the survey and encourage you to participate.


[www.public-place.com.au](http://www.public-place.com.au) | 03 9078 4607


Figure 0-2: Advertisement - Bunyip and District Community News, 17th October 2017

## 4.7 Survey Instrument

The primary facility for completing the survey was a survey monkey online survey interface. Members of the local community were also given the option to complete the survey in person at the Bunyip Neighbourhood House. Two individuals made contacted Public Place to arrange a time to meet to complete the survey, however neither attended the interview. A hard copy of the survey instrument is attached below.

## 4.8 Respondent Characteristics

A total of 203 respondents completed the online survey. Due to a technical issue with the online interface, the responses of three (3) respondents to questions 2(a) and 3(a) were omitted from the final data set.<sup>5</sup>

Table 1-1 provides an indication of the geographic distribution of the respondents and the overall level of survey participation within the community. As the Table Shows, 37% of the respondents reported that they live in the Rural North, suggesting a response rate of at least 21.9% in this area

<sup>5</sup> The survey interface was initially set so that questions 2a and 3a asked for a 'ranking' of the potential benefits and dis-benefits of the project. The implication is that respondents could only provide the same response once across the different potential benefits and dis-benefits listed in questions 2a and 3a (for example, a respondent could not indicate they were 'extremely concerned' about all the issues in question 2a). This setting was changed. However, seven respondents attempted the survey prior to the change. Of these, four re-did the survey. The responses to question 2a and 3a provided by the remaining three respondents were omitted from the data set.



(some respondents did not disclose their place of residents, and some of these may live in the Rural North). In comparison, 45% of the respondents reported that they live in Garfield or Bunyip. The population of these areas is significantly greater than in the Rural North and therefore the overall rate of participation among those living to the south of the Princes Highway was low (approximately 3% of adults). A further 7% of the respondents reported living outside the primary Study Area.

A number of respondents chose not to disclose their place of residence (11%). Respondents who did not disclose their place of residence typically also did not provide any demographic information.

Table 0-1: Geographic distribution of the respondents

Locality	Address Points	Adult Population	Completions	Participation Rate
Bunyip North	23	56	13	22.9%
Garfield North	53	139	43	
Tonimbuk	58	152	20	
Bunyip	860	1,848	58	2.9%
Garfield	551	1,329	33	
Other			14	
Not disclosed			22	

The age profile of the respondents (who provided age data) roughly approximates that of the general community, with the notable exception that younger adults aged 25 or less are underrepresented. However, due to the overall size of the sample, the relatively small number of responses from younger adults and the lack of demographic data for approximately 11% of respondents, no attempt to weight responses was made.

As a result, while the survey provides a good overview of the range of opinions within the local community, a quantitative extrapolation of the results to the entire community may be unreliable.

Table 0-2: Age Profile: Survey Respondents v. The Community

	Rural North		Bunyip and Garfield	
	Survey	Community	Survey	Community
Under 25	1.4%	7.5%	1.1%	10.2%
25 to 35	9.5%	8.1%	10.0%	15.1%
36 to 49	23.0%	22.8%	27.8%	25.6%
50 to 69	48.6%	45.8%	50.0%	34.4%
70 or over	17.6%	15.9%	11.1%	14.7%