

## Sand Resource Protection

Council is seeking approval from the State Government to prepare a planning scheme amendment to help protect the Nyora sand resource from inappropriate land use and development.

Mineral and construction resources are important to the local and state economy with an estimated production value of around \$676M per year. It is estimated that mineral deposits in South Gippsland can supply 33 per cent of Melbourne's hard rock needs and 22 per cent of its sand and gravel needs until 2050.

The proposed amendment aims to protect the future of the mineral extractive industry in South Gippsland by restricting residential development close to extraction operations or on top of resource reserves. This will help to prevent planning conflicts which can result in the loss of resources or in increased project costs as a result of higher transport costs.

Paul Stampton, South Gippsland Shire Council's Planning Manager said the amendment is necessary to protect the resource. "South Gippsland Shire was identified in a recent State Government report as being a key resource for hard rock, sand and gravel resources to help meet the growing demand of Greater Melbourne and the western Gippsland region, so it is crucial that Council look to identify and acknowledge extractive industry and resource areas.

"The proposed amendment will promote the suitable siting of dwellings and make new landowners aware of the existing nearby industrial activity. The amendment will have no effect on existing farming uses, mining activity or the existing use rights of dwellings."

"The most practical approach to address the issue of resource protection is the introduction of a tailored Environmental Significance Overlay into the Planning Scheme. The purpose of the overlays is not to prohibit development but to ensure the balancing of competing interests," said Mr. Stampton.

If the Planning Minister authorises the proposed amendment, Council will commence the exhibition of the Amendment which will give the local community an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

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