



Cr. David Edwards – Mayor

PO Box 18
BALLAN VIC 3342

Mobile: 0435 326 370

Email: dedwards@moorabool.vic.gov.au



The Moorabool Community

31 August, 2020

Open Letter from the Mayor

Re: West Gate Tunnel Project and Maddingley Brown Coal

Moorabool Shire Council (Council) knows that the proposal for Maddingley Brown Coal (MBC) to accept, store, and potentially dispose of uncategorised contaminated soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project is a major concern to the community.

Some people have asked why Moorabool Shire Council has not come out against the proposal like some neighbouring Councils have in recent times.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you we are across the level of complexity and community concerns that surround the proposal.

Council has at all times sought to ensure that the community concern is communicated to Government. We have done everything we can to ensure we have a seat at the table to make those concerns known to the decision maker.

Council has a legal obligation to assess an application. Council needs information on all the pros and cons of a proposal before it makes a decision.

Until such time as it has obtained all the necessary information, Council must remain neutral.

As such, Council made a calculated and conscious decision to advocate for full transparency as it relates to the technical information, submitted to both the Planning Minister and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA). Only by remaining neutral was Council able to try and secure a role in influencing decisions and continue the push for proper community consultation.

This position was better than being excluded from conversations and influencing processes by having a predetermined view.

Have we been given all of the information? No.

Are we still strongly advocating on behalf of our community to get that information? Absolutely.



To date we have written:

- Sixteen letters to the Minister for Planning;
- Two letters to the Minister for Transport;
- Two letters to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change;
- Four letters to the CEO of the Environment Protection Agency; and
- One letter directly to the Premier Daniel Andrews.

Where Council was not bound to confidentiality, these letters have been sent to Local Members, cross benchers and other relevant Ministers. They have been posted on our website, social media and been the focus of multiple media releases.

We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on officer time, consultant fees and legal fees.

We have worked nights and weekends.

We want you to know we are doing everything we can to advocate for the concerns of the community to be the priority when the Planning Minister decides to make a decision.

Council has not had an update on this project for a long time, irrespective of our requests for information.

Please continue to express your views on the proposal to the relevant Ministers, the local members, the opposition and to us.

We understand your frustrations. Please know we have, and we will continue to, strongly advocate on behalf of the Moorabool community.

Yours sincerely,



Cr David Edwards
Mayor