

SAVE WESTERN PORT WOODLANDS Update January 3, 2021

Taking our message to the city

A small crew headed out early on Boxing Day to erect bold blue and white banners and corflute signs in four locations along Bass Highway to alert holiday visitors to what's happening just out of sight.

- STOP MINING OUR COASTAL WOODLANDS
- SAND MINES OR WILDLIFE
- OUR COASTAL WOODLANDS TOO PRECIOUS TO MINE
- SAVE OUR PRECIOUS GRASS TREES



The messages attracted plenty of attention but they didn't please everyone.

Within three days the signs had all been removed, clearly not by anyone official (the council, Parks Victoria or VicRoads) since the stakes were still there.

But they had served their purpose – our message was viewed by tens of thousands of visitors from the city as they entered Bass Coast on December 26 and 27. Thanks to Tim O'Brien for organising it.

If anyone has highway frontage and is willing to host a sign or two, please let us know.

Dandy Premix hearing

[Dandy Premix](#) has applied to expand its current pit and develop a new one, involving the clearing of a section of the wildlife corridor. In late November Planning Minister Richard Wynne called in the application, at the request of the company, and it will now go to a planning panel rather than the council.

The hearing will begin on March 22 and is expected to take up to 10 days. Evidence from Dandy Premix will take up most of the first six days, while Bass Coast Shire Council, has two days.

Tim O'Brien will appear on behalf of SWPW. SWPW members Meryl Tobin, Anne Heath Mennell and Neil Rankine are presenting individual submissions and Gerard Drew is appearing on behalf of the South Gippsland Conservation Society (our auspicing body).

This is a key test case on how the government views our local interests and the environment against ideas on where sand for Melbourne's construction boom should come from.

The planning panel will advise the Minister, but, unlike VCAT, he will make the final decision.

We ask members/supporters to email Richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au to remind him that this matter is of great interest to the people of Bass Coast. There is no need to go into

great detail as that will be canvassed during the hearing. A short, heart-felt message will have more impact.

The hearing will be held via video conference but the panel may hear local submitters at a venue in Grantville.

New website

New name, new website. Visit <http://www.savewesternportwoodlands.org> which has information about the campaign as well as media coverage and relevant documents.

We're also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Save-Western-Port-Woodlands-101246181838119>. Please share among your networks as we need to spread our message far and wide.