

**Presentation by Dr Mark Fancett, president of the Peninsula Preservation Group Inc (Save Arthurs Seat), made at the public meeting hosted by ABCD (Association for Building Community in Dromana Inc) on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 for discussion of the proposed new Arthurs Seat Quarry.**

*It is disappointing that **Hillview Quarries CEO, Paul Nitas, is not here to present today** as many have come to hear what he has to say.*

*I'm here to tell you the things that Hillview won't tell you:*

*There is a lot of spin circulated by Hillview. This proposal is not just resuming the old Pioneer Quarry (3ha). It is a new site - 115 Boundary Rd – which has never been mined. The proposed pit is **43 ha (over 100 acres) and 190m (630ft) deep**. This is **larger than the Melbourne Botanic Gardens** and 2.5 MCG light towers deep. It will be **5 times bigger than the current Hillview Quarry**. They will need to **clear 93 acres of vegetation**. It is a massive industrial site between the Arthurs Seat State Park. In 2013, the (then) Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt visited the site and said "it should be included into the State Park."*

*Hillview state there is a need for the new quarry, quoting the State Government Demand and Supply Report 2015-2050. They failed to quote that the report rated that the Mornington Peninsula reserves were not of strategic importance. There are larger, more accessible resources in the Lysterfield, Pakenham and Tynong area that do not require the removal of pristine vegetation.*

*The EES (Environment Effects Statement) is conducted by Hillview. They employ Jacobs, whose mission statement is to **"give the customer what they want."***

*The Ross Trust is a charitable trust which donates to many deserving causes. Although 70% of the income derives from Hillview Quarries, less than 10% is donated here.*

*Two weeks ago, I spoke to the Chair of the Ross Trust and Chair of the Hillview Board, Jenny Stephens. I told her in January that the Mornington Peninsula Shire draft report on biodiversity states **two thirds of the Mornington Peninsula has been cleared of native bushland, and species loss is ongoing. The main cause is land clearance**. In April 2019, the Senate Report on Faunal Extinction states extinctions are continuing and the main cause is land clearance. In May 2019, the UN Biodiversity Report by 450 scientists, which took 3 years to complete, stated **the world is currently experiencing the highest rate of species loss in human history and the main cause is land clearance**.*

*I asked her, **"In light of this overwhelming evidence, how can you justify clearing almost 100 acres of forest, especially when there are larger, more accessible granite reserves available?"** She replied, **"We have to. It's the only resource we have."***

*The Ross Trust was set up by RE Ross. In his will he states the aim is "for acquisition, preservation and maintenance of public and national parks." How can they now justify destroying the environment so they can save the environment?*

*I call on the Ross Trust to do something truly significant for the environment, as RE Ross wanted, to donate the land to the community so that it be preserved forever as a public park.*