EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project ID: 28703
Project title: Local Government Influence on Mine Restoration Opportunities

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You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

What does the research involve?

The aim of this study is to explore community attitudes and planning priorities of municipal councils in regard to potential restoration opportunities for end-of-life mine and quarry sites. This document will specify what is expected of you during research interviews.

During an interview, you will be asked a number of questions about your experience with strategic land planning in your municipality. The interview process has two main phases: (1) a discussion about the general perceptions of mine and/or quarry sites in your local government area from both a community and council perspective and (2) a discussion about restoration opportunities in regard to planning priorities and adapting to challenges. The whole interview process should last for up to one hour and will be recorded.

Why were you chosen for this research?

You have been chosen to participate in this research project because you work or are involved in the land use planning functions of a municipal council. You would have been contacted directly by myself or my supervisor, or through your colleague, who would have recommended you based on your expertise and experience.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Prior to the activities, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You have the right to withdraw from further participation at any stage along with any implications of withdrawal. It will not be possible to withdraw the answers given after the interview has concluded.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

The findings of this research will help to integrate the selection of restoration opportunities for end-of-life mine and quarry sites with the planning priorities and preferences of local councils. The research will provide a framework which considers existing and future land use challenges which may be addressed through beneficial site transformation in line with the local council’s land planning strategies and focus areas. This research does not put you at any personal risk and will only take some of your time.

Confidentiality

Any data collected during this research will be treated confidentially. Anonymity will be protected both for the interviewee and their council. Any personal information connected to the data will only be used in the case of clarification sought with the participant. If requested by the participant, data in its original raw form can be stored in
an unidentifiable form. Interviews will be recorded and transcribed. No personal details will be shared with any third party at any time.

The publication of results will only contain general findings and aggregated information. Results will be published in a thesis and may contribute to future research published in peer-reviewed journals.

**Storage of data**

Interviews will be transcribed, and the opinions and experiences of the participants will constitute the data of this research. Transcriptions and recordings will be stored in a secure server, which is only accessible by the research team registered in the Monash University Ethics Application (i.e. the above names). Upon completion of the project, all collected data will be destroyed.

**Use of data for other purposes**

Only aggravated de-identified data may be used for other projects where ethics approval has been granted. All original data will be destroyed upon project completion.

**Results**

Results from the research will be disclosed through a thesis and may contribute to publications in journals. Upon request, we can provide you a copy of these publications and your own personal recording and transcription.

**Complaints**

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer  
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)  
Room 111, Chancellery Building D,  
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Thank you,

Mohan Yellishetty