



Ph: 4827 3500

Classifieds: 02 4827 3555

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\$1.60 including GST

# In for the long haul

## Bungonia residents dig in over quarry road concerns

By LOUISE THROWER

A HEATED meeting at Bungonia has pressured a quarry developer to fulfil his roadwork obligations for a haul route.

One of the 55 people who turned up to the Progress Association meeting on Monday even told proponent, Multiquip Quarries: "It would be better for all concerned if you headed north."

Company managing director Steve Mikosic and his son and general manager, Jason, faced a barrage of community feeling.

Residents are upset over reports the company wants to move trucks from its Ardmore Park sand and basalt quarry on Oallen Ford Rd before the 18km haul route is upgraded to agreed standards.

"I drive that road (Jerrara) at night and it's extremely dangerous," one woman told the Mikosics.

"How would you like your wife or mother doing the same? I'm scared stiff."

The three-stage road works were approved by the state government in 2009. They require a bypass around Bungonia in stage

one, and the haul route, most of which covers Jerrara Rd, to be widened to seven metres before 10 trucks travel the road in stage two.

Some 44 trucks daily would be permitted in stage three once the thoroughfare was widened to eight metres, along with shoulder and bridge repairs.

But Multiquip acknowledged speaking to council about widening the road in one go, negating the need to engage contractors twice, and allowing 10 trucks a day in the early stages.

Residents fear the company won't proceed to stage three,

leaving with them with a substandard road, they say is already dangerous, let alone with B-doubles travelling the route.

Measurements in 2005 had revealed Jerrara Rd was four, five and six metres in places, they told the *Post*.

Yet Steve Mikosic denied making any formal proposal to Council and branded the meeting premature for that reason.

Mayor Geoff Kettle echoed the sentiment, saying Multiquip had a right to speak to Council, just as the community could air its view.

"There is a set of (state government) Part 3A conditions in place

and I'll be standing by them," he told the meeting.

But he was just one of nine, and if the community wanted to influence councillors, it had to lobby all of them.

If there was a formal proposal, it had to be advertised for community comment, Cr Kettle said.

Planning director Chris Stewart confirmed the discussions with Multiquip.

He had also travelled the route with the Mikosics, where they pointed out sections that could be upgraded to eight metres.

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**MAKING THEIR POINT:** Mayor Geoff Kettle (left) told the meeting that he would not support any change in Multiquip Quarries' road upgrade obligations. Multiquip Quarries' managing director Steve Mikosic (right) defended his position at Monday's meeting.

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