



Figure 1 Stonyfell residents Janet and Peter Marshall, John Klerck, Myk and Jan Mykyta and George Rogers are concerned with Boral's application for a licence to take building and construction waste at its Stonyfell Quarry. Picture: AAP/Roy Vandervegt

Boral's Stonyfell Quarry cops a blast for unlicensed waste disposal

Ben Cameron, Eastern Courier Messenger

August 1, 2018 6:30am

Subscriber only

- [Boral wants to subdivide Stonyfell quarry](#)
- [Tilt Renewables announces hydro storage project at Highbury](#)

BORAL'S Stonyfell Quarry admits it has been accepting demolition and construction waste for recycling — but is only now applying for the licence to do so.

The building materials company has now applied to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for permission to recycle up to 20,000 tonnes of construction and demolition waste each year at the quarry.

At a community meeting last week, residents were shocked to learn from an EPA representative that Boral had already been accepting contaminated material and recycling without a licence.

Retired magistrate Michael Ward told the meeting waste should not be dumped “on the doorstep of an affluent suburb such as Stonyfell”.

“The EPA acknowledges there will be contamination in the material dumped, up to five per cent (per) load,” Mr Ward said.

“There is no way the residents of Stonyfell can monitor this to ensure Boral will remain within the limits, and it is suggested that there is no way the EPA can monitor it.

“They should be dumped at a proper dump, properly run by experienced waste handlers, not left to the mercies of a profit-seeking company like Boral.”

He feared waste dumped at the quarry would “inevitably contaminate Second Creek”.



Figure 2 A safety inspector at a Stonyfell quarry with a truck spraying water to dampen the dust in 2011.

In a submission to the EPA, resident Liz Silz was also concerned with “potential seepage” of toxic materials into the groundwater, as well as property values falling.

Speaking after the meeting, resident Bob Byrne said few residents knew about Boral’s plans.

“Boral already creates an unacceptable amount of disturbance in what is a residential area with regular blasting, noise, dust and heavy trucks in residential streets,” Mr Byrne said.

“The roads into and out of the present quarry are already inadequate for the amount of heavy trucks using them.”

The EPA “warned” Boral for its unlicensed activity following an inspection in May, and demanded it apply for a licence to recycle the materials.

The company has been onselling the recycled waste — generated through cleaning and maintenance of on-site equipment, returned concrete from deliveries and material from construction sites — or using it for road building.

A Boral spokesman said its current operations were merely a “recycling initiative”.

When asked by *Eastern Courier Messenger* how long it had been operating without a licence and how many tonnes of waste it had recycled, he refused to comment.

An EPA spokeswoman said a fine was not warranted as recycling reduced the amount of quarrying and blasting required, but stressed Boral's activities "need to be licensed".

Under the terms of the licence, the quarry would receive between 5000 and 20,000 tonnes per year, but it could not accept municipal solid waste, liquids, hazardous or radioactive waste.

Waste would not be stored permanently at the site.

The Stonyfell Quarry is one of Adelaide's oldest quarries, having been in operation since 1837.

Product from the quarry is used to make road bases and in concrete manufacturing.

Originally published as [Quarry cops a blast for unlicensed waste disposal](#)