

1000 metre buffer zone for new and existing quarries.

To whom it may concern

I urge you to consider the proposal of the petition for a mandatory 1000-metre buffer zone around quarries is crucial to protecting public health, property, and the environment, and would isolate activities at quarries that do not support the policies and legislation implemented by the Welsh Government. It promotes sustainability by balancing economic benefits with the well-being of affected communities and natural ecosystems. Implementing a mandatory 1000-metre buffer zone around existing and new quarries is important for several reasons:

1. **Health and Safety to the surrounding areas:** Quarry operations release dust and particulate matter, which can include silica and other harmful substances. These particles pose serious respiratory risks to nearby residents, including asthma, bronchitis, and other long-term health issues. A buffer zone reduces direct exposure to these contaminants, protecting public health.
2. **Noise Pollution Reduction:** Quarries are associated with high noise levels due to blasting, drilling, and transportation activities. Prolonged exposure to such noise pollution can lead to hearing loss, stress, and sleep disturbances. A 1000-metre buffer reduces the impact of these disturbances on nearby communities.
3. **Protection of Water Resources:** Quarrying activities can disrupt local hydrology, affecting groundwater levels, quality, and nearby water bodies. A buffer zone provides a safeguard against contamination or depletion of water resources that local communities rely on for drinking, agriculture, and recreation.
4. **Preserving Property Values:** Properties located close to quarries often experience a decrease in value due to noise, dust, and the visual impact of quarrying activities. A buffer zone can help maintain property values by creating distance and minimising the quarry's impact on the local landscape.
5. **Ecosystem Conservation:** Quarries can harm surrounding ecosystems, impacting local flora, fauna, and habitats. Dust, noise, and vibrations disrupt wildlife, while the removal of vegetation for quarrying can lead to soil erosion. A buffer zone can provide a protective margin for local ecosystems, preserving biodiversity and reducing environmental degradation.
6. **Community Well-being and Quality of Life:** The presence of a quarry near residential areas affects residents' mental and emotional well-being. Concerns over noise, dust, and potential property damage from vibrations can contribute to stress and reduce overall

quality of life. A 1000-metre buffer helps create a safe distance, fostering a better living environment for nearby communities.

7. **Risk of Structural Damage:** Blasting and heavy machinery used in quarries can create vibrations that, over time, may damage nearby structures. A buffer zone minimises this risk, protecting homes, schools, and other buildings from potential structural harm.
8. **Planning and Zoning Consistency:** Establishing a mandatory buffer zone aligns with best practices in urban planning and zoning regulations, which aim to separate industrial activities from residential and environmentally sensitive areas. This consistency strengthens regulatory frameworks, benefiting communities and local authorities.
9. **Precedent for Responsible Resource Management:** Setting a 1000-metre buffer zone demonstrates a commitment to balancing resource extraction with community and environmental welfare. This proactive approach can set a benchmark for responsible resource management in other industrial sectors as well.

Regards

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