




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Oxenford, Nucrush Quarry

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (9.30 pm): I rise to speak on the proposed extension to the Nucrush quarry at Oxenford. The application was refused by the council in 2021 and is now subject to an appeal. This proposal shows little regard for neighbouring residential properties. The idea of having a hard-rock quarry that is already close to family homes expanded so it is even closer to family homes is deeply concerning.

The State Planning Policy, which is integrated into the city plan, provides clear guidance through the mining and extractive resources provisions, which define a separation area as land surrounding a resource and processing site that is needed to maintain separation from people who may suffer from adverse residual impacts such as noise, dust and ground vibrations. In plain terms, it is a buffer that prevents incompatible uses like quarrying and residential neighbourhoods being situated together.

The policy also sets out a minimum separation distance. It states 200 metres for resources that do not require blasting or crushing, such as sand, gravel and clay, and 1,000 metres for hard-rock resources because blasting and crushing are required. While noting that the separation distance can be reduced in limited circumstances due to topography or existing development commitments, the discretion must be respected as a core part of the policy. However, the gap between the 1,000-metre guideline and an estimated 240 metres from the proposed new pit is not a minor variation. It is a wholesale abandonment of the separation principle. It is difficult to understand how a hard-rock blasting operation could be contemplated so close to people's homes.

The overreach does not stop there. Nucrush proposes to extend the operation to RL100. That is not a modest extension; that is a major intensification, with serious ramifications for residents in terms of amenity, visual impact and the long-term character of the area. We all recognise the need for quarry materials and that longer haulage increases costs and emissions, but creeping closer to family homes is not fair for the quarry's neighbours. Finally, allowing Nucrush to dig into the next century and create a pit deeper than a Pilbara iron ore mine in the middle of suburbia is a little too hard for local residents to swallow.