

STATES OF JERSEY



**ISLAND PLAN 2022-25: APPROVAL
(P36/2021) – EIGHTY-THIRD
AMENDMENT
QUARRYING AND AIR QUALITY
AMENDMENT TO POLICY MW1**

Lodged au Greffe on 7th February 2022
by Deputy K. F. Morel of St. Lawrence

STATES GREFFE

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After the words “the draft Island Plan 2022-25” insert the words “except that –

- (a) within Policy MW1, after the final paragraph, there should be inserted the following new paragraphs–
 - i) Proposals for extensions to mineral extraction sites will only be supported where there is at all times during the working life of the site, a minimum distance of 250 metres between the proposed face of the extraction site and the nearest occupied buildings, whether those buildings are for residential or employment use.
 - ii) A proposal for extensions to mineral extraction sites will only be supported where real-time air quality and dust monitoring systems are provided and operated within the guidelines set out by the Institute of Air Quality Management and the results of that monitoring is published online.
 - iii) All proposals for extensions to mineral extraction sites must be accompanied by a Dust and Particulate Matter Impact Assessment before Planning Permission may be granted.
- (b) the draft Island Plan 2022-25 should be further amended in such respects as may be necessary consequent to the adoption of (a).”

DEPUTY K. F. MOREL OF ST. LAWRENCE

Note: After this amendment, the proposition would read as follows –

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

to approve, in accordance with Article 3(1) of the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002, as amended by the Covid-19 (Island Plan) (Jersey) Regulations 2021, the draft Island Plan 2022-25, **except that –**

- (a) within Policy MW1, after the final paragraph, there should be inserted the following new paragraphs–

“Proposals for extensions to mineral extraction sites will only be supported where there is at all times during the working life of the site, a minimum distance of 250 metres between the proposed face of the extraction site and

the nearest occupied buildings, whether those buildings are for residential or employment use.

A proposal for extensions to mineral extraction sites will only be supported where real-time air quality and dust monitoring systems are provided and operated within the guidelines set out by the Institute of Air Quality Management and the results of that monitoring is published online.

All proposals for extensions to mineral extraction sites must be accompanied by a Dust and Particulate Matter Impact Assessment before Planning Permission may be granted.”

(b) the draft Island Plan 2022-25 should be further amended in such respects as may be necessary consequent to the adoption of (a).

REPORT

The blasting and crushing of rock within quarries produces dust and particulate matter that can seriously harm health, adversely affect ecosystems and cause damage to amenities.

Currently there are no air pollution laws in Jersey nor is there air quality monitoring at quarrying sites and, despite the Institute of Air Quality Management (2016) stating that dust adversely impacts amenities up to 400m from the [dust] generating activity, there are no regulations or policies in the island governing the minimum distance between quarrying activities and residential or employment sites.

There is also no monitoring of air quality being undertaken at the quarrying sites either by the government or the operators.

In the absence of an air quality or air pollution law, this amendment seeks to provide, through policy, minimum safeguards that will protect islanders from the harmful effects of rock blasting and crushing from new extensions to existing quarrying sites.

Health Risks from Poor Air Quality

The Jersey Air Quality Strategy 2013 states that *‘everyone in Jersey should have access to outdoor air without significant risk to their health and that there should be minimal impacts from air pollutants on the environment of Jersey’*.

Despite this aim, Jersey does not measure dust pollution from its quarries. Fine dust particulate matter exposure contributes to cardiovascular and respiratory disease and lung cancer. The presence of silica and risk of silicosis is an additional concern. The World Health Organisation lists minerals extraction as a source of PM10 and PM2.5 particulate matter and states that:

“Exposure to particles contributes to the risk of developing cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, as well as of lung cancer” and “indeed no threshold has been identified below which no damage to health is observed”.

The Channel Island Cancer Report shows that the incidence of death from lung cancer is 20% higher than the West of England and 2 % higher than England (including cities). The Institute of Air Quality Management (2016) states that dust adversely impacts amenities up to 400m from the generating activity and in line with this, countries around the world are now imposing buffer zones for quarries that crush and blast rock to limit the distance between a quarry perimeter and habitable dwellings and public amenities:

Nova Scotia 800m

Quebec 600m

Victoria (Australia) 500m (with blasting), 250m (without blasting)

India 500m

Malaysia 500m.

To ensure the minimum standard of environmental public health and to protect islanders in the absence of an air pollution law this amendment to the Bridging Island Plan seeks to include a 250+ m buffer zone for new extensions to quarries that blast and crush rock.

There is no air quality monitoring of quarrying sites in Jersey

Unfortunately, the nine-year old 2013 Jersey Air Quality Strategy does not call for air quality monitoring of quarrying sites, instead it relies on “mitigation strategies” to deal with particulate matter pollution.

(P.28 <https://statesassembly.gov.je/assemblyreports/2013/r.049-2013.pdf>).

Unfortunately, without air quality monitoring, it is impossible to know whether these mitigations strategies are working and whether or not residents of the area are being subjected to dangerous levels of pollution.

What is Particulate Matter?

According to the World Health Organisation ([www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-\(outdoor\)-air-quality-and-health](http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-(outdoor)-air-quality-and-health)), “Particulate Matter (PM) is a common proxy indicator for air pollution. It affects more people than any other pollutant. The major components of PM are sulfate, nitrates, ammonia, sodium chloride, black carbon, mineral dust and water. It consists of a complex mixture of solid and liquid particles of organic and inorganic substances suspended in the air.

“While particles with a diameter of 10 microns or less, (\leq PM10) can penetrate and lodge deep inside the lungs, the even more health-damaging particles are those with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less, (\leq PM2.5). PM2.5 can penetrate the lung barrier and enter the blood system. Chronic exposure to particles contributes to the risk of developing cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, as well as of lung cancer.

“There is a close, quantitative relationship between exposure to high concentrations of small particulates (PM10 and PM2.5) and increased mortality or morbidity, both daily and over time. Conversely, when concentrations of small and fine particulates are reduced, related mortality will also go down – presuming other factors remain the same. This allows policy-makers to project the population health improvements that could be expected if particulate air pollution is reduced.

“Small particulate pollution has health impacts even at very low concentrations –indeed no threshold has been identified below which no damage to health is observed.”

Therefore, the WHO Global guideline limits aimed to achieve the lowest concentrations of PM possible.

Conclusion

By supporting this amendment, States Members will be ensuring that islanders’ health and the island’s environment are at the front of planners’ minds when they are deciding whether or not a new extension to a quarry site should be permitted.

Importantly, existing quarries are not monitored for their effects on air quality. By supporting this proposition, States Members would be ensuring that this oversight would be corrected for new extensions to existing sites and that islanders would be able to know whether or not their health may be affected by these activities.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no financial and manpower implications to government as a result of this amendment.

Child Rights Impact Assessment review

This amendment has been assessed in relation to the [Bridging Island Plan CRIA](#). There are no negative impacts identified for children and many positive, reinforcing their rights to good health.