

**WARBY RANGE
PROTECTION SOCIETY
1975C**

24-4-75

ICI SEEKS BIG MINING LEASES NEAR TAMINICK

ICI Australia Ltd. is seeking mining licences for a large area of land near Taminick.

The company, through its appointed agent, A. C. Offenberg, has advertised its intention to apply to the Secretary of Mines for four areas of land in the Parish of Taminick.

The total area of land involved is 1927 acres or about 781 hectares.

In the advertisement the company states that application for the mining licence will be made by April 29.

Estimated expenditure for the first year of operation is \$40 000 and the company requires the licences for a period of 15 years.

Metals and minerals to be worked are gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper and fluorspar.

The land involved in the applications is owned by the Crown, Booth Bros., A. W. Griffiths and Leslie John Wenham.

The company states in the application that mining operations are to be carried out on and below the surface and the methods of operation will be open pitting, sinking and riving.

The mines will be known as Priscella — 540 acres (219 hectares) owned by the Crown, Booth Bros. and A. W. Griffiths; Vivienne — 530 acres (215 hectares) owned by the Crown and Booth Bros; Doreen — 448 acres (18.4 hectares) owned by the Crown, Booth Bros. and Leslie John Wenham; Glenda — 409 acres (165.7 hectares) owned by the Crown, Booth Bros. and A. W. Griffiths.

ICI apply to mine

ICI Australia has made application to the Minister for Mines to carry out exploratory drilling in the Warby Ranges.

A company spokesman said this morning the application had followed assay of surface samples gathered in the area.

The application sought

Council v fight min in Warb

Wangaratta City Council is any mining operations in the Ranges.

Council is to support objections from Range Protection Society against proposal by ICI Australia Ltd.

On Monday night council received a letter from the Range Protection Society objecting to the proposed mining operations.

The society referred to letters of April 24 in which ICI Australia Ltd.

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ICI apply to mine

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A company spokesman said this morning the application had followed assay of surface samples gathered in the area.

The application sought approval for a drilling team comprising a geologist and two men to carry out percussion drilling.

The spokesman said existing roads and tracks could be used to site the drill.

The company is seeking to determine fluospar deposits in the Warby Ranges.

The percussion drilling is the next step in the company's exploration.

The test holes will allow the company to take underground chip samples, which will be further assayed before any application to mine is made.

The company is required to gain permission of the minister for any exploration or mining in the area.

ICI's activities are being opposed by conservation groups, including the Warby Range Protection Society.

Council fight mine in Warby

Wangaratta City Council is to fight any mining operations in the Warby Ranges.

Council is to support objection of the Warby Range Protection Society against any mining operations by ICI Australia Ltd.

On Monday night council received a letter from the society objecting to the proposed mine.

The society referred to a letter of April 24 in which ICI advised that it had applied for mining licences covering 1927 acres in the Warby Ranges, Taminick, County of Moira, adjacent to the Warby Ranges.

The society said the granting of the licences for subsequent operations would be a threat to the preservation of the Warby Ranges.

In moving council support the objection, Cr. Bell said every avenue should be explored to save the Warby Ranges.

Cr. Kevin Howard said that the council had expressed its opposition to any mining operations that would deface the ranges.

"Enough damage has been done to the ranges. There is no alternative than to support the council's views on this matter," Cr. Howard said.

The notices indicated that ICI had applied for permission to mine on and below the surface for gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper and fluorspar.

The land in question is part of the Warby Range, part owned by Booth Bros. A. W. and M. M. Marks.

2-7-75

Council will fight mining in Warbys

Wangaratta City Council is opposed to any mining operations in the Warby Ranges.

Council is to support objections from the Warby Range Protection Society against proposed mining by ICI Australia Ltd.

On Monday night council received a letter from the society objecting to the proposed mining.

The society referred to letters in the Chronicle of April 24 in which ICI advised its intention to seek mining licences covering 1927 acres in the Parish of Taminick, County of Moira, adjacent to the city.

The society said the granting of the licences and subsequent operations would be detrimental to the preservation of the Warby Ranges.

In moving council support the objection Cr. Allan Bell said every avenue should be used to protect the Warby Ranges.

Cr. Kevin Howard said that in the past council had expressed its opposition to any action that would deface the ranges.

"Enough damage has been done already. We have no alternative than to support this opposition if we are to stand by our previously strongly expressed views on this matter," Cr. Howard commented.

The notices indicated that ICI intended to apply for premission to mine on and below the surface for gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper and flourspar.

The land in question is part Crown Land, and part owned by Booth Bros, A. W. Griffiths and Raymond M. Marks.

Ministry study of mining plan

10-7-75

The Victorian Ministry of Conservation is studying the proposed mining operations in the Warby Ranges.

The ministry has advised the secretary of the Warby Range Protection Society, Mr. Garth Hodge, that it is studying the mining development proposed for the range with a view to conservation.

The society and the Wangaratta City Council are opposed to the application of giant chemical and industrial company, ICI Australia Ltd., for mining licences covering 1927 acres

in the Parish of Taminick, County of Moira.

Mr. Hodge said today that he had not received any reply to a letter to the Federal Ministry of Environment and Conservation, although it reported on July 2, that the then Minister, Dr. Jim Cairns, would investigate the proposal.

The society has asked the Wangaratta and Benalla Shire Councils to support the protest to the Mines Department.

ICI intends to carry out above and below surface mining and use open pitting, sinking and driving. The minerals sought include gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper and flourspar.

The company has stated that it will carry out economic feasibility and environmental impact studies.

Mr Hodge said that the main concern over the proposal was that the open cut method of mining would

scar the aesthetic beauty of the region.

He said that providing access to the mining site would upset the great natural beauty of the area, which contains some unique vegetation.

"The wildlife of the ranges would also be disturbed", Mr Hodge said.

Warbys under student survey

Wangaratta Technical College has received a grant to undertake an in-depth study of the Warby Ranges. 31-7-75

The grant has been received from the National Committee on Social Science Teaching.

The aim of the project is to use the Warby Ranges as a focal point for joint school-community involvement in a project of importance to the citizens of Wangaratta.

Students hope to study the flora, fauna, geological and ecological systems, land usage and the way in which this valuable community asset can best be utilised.

The project commenced with a hike, followed by a barbecue in an attempt to become acquainted with the natural environment at first hand.

Seminar

This was followed by a seminar at the college at which representatives of various government departments and interested groups informed the students of their specific concerns in the ranges.

Guest speakers were Mr. Boucher of the Forestry Commission, Mr. Sheridan from the Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Mr. Zelman from the Crown Lands Department, and Mr. Larkins, a member of the Warby Range Protection Society.

Their discussions were accompanied by a film entitled "The Living Forest".

Tomorrow some students hope to undertake a clean-up of the area around Ryan's Lookout, assisted by Mr. Zelman and teachers.

On Sunday students will be involved in a photography competition in the Warbys. They will be trying to create a photographic essay contrasting different aspects of the range that may eventually be presented to the public.

The aim of the project is community involvement. If anybody is interested they may contact the college for more information.



● Part of the Warby Ranges.

I'LL INVESTIGATE WARBY MINING PLANS: CAIRNS

A giant chemical and industrial company, ICI Australia Ltd., has applied for licences to mine about 810 hectares of the Warby Ranges area, near Wangaratta.

The company is seeking 15-year-old licences to search for and mine gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper and fluorspar, and has estimated expenditure in the first year of operation at \$40,000.

The plans have brought a quick and angry response from Wangaratta residents and the city council.

And the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Dr Cairns, told the Border Mail yesterday he would investigate the plans.

Wangaratta town clerk, Mr John Elward, said yesterday the city council had decided to support the Warby Ranges Protection Society

in protesting to the Victorian Mines Department about the plans.

"The Wangaratta City Council decided to support the society and will send a letter to the Mines Department protesting against the application," he said.

A spokesman for the Mines Department said yesterday a number of objections to ICI's application had been received. No licence would be granted until they had been seriously considered.

The company plans to carry out above and below-surface mining, and use open pitting, sinking and rising to extract the minerals.

An ICI public relations officer, Mr Jim Clarke, said if the company went ahead with plans, it first would undertake an economic feasibility study and an environment impact study.

"Obviously there is potential there, and we are planning to explore the area," he said.

The secretary of the Warby Ranges Protection Society, Mr Garth Hodge, said yesterday his main concern over the proposal was that the open-cut mining method would scar the aesthetic beauty of the region.

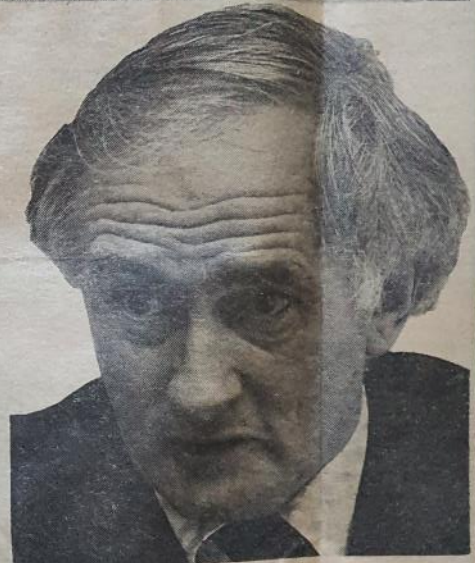
Wildlife dies

"They will also have to have access to get to their mining operations," he said.

Mr Hodge said the area possessed great natural beauty and contained some unique vegetation.

He warned the wildlife of the ranges would be disturbed and upset by the activity. "Wildlife, contrary to popular belief, does not go to another place when it's disturbed — it dies," he said.

"The people of Wangaratta feel very strongly about the Warbys. They are used by orienteers, guides and there are picnic grounds and lookout spots."



● MR HODGE



● MR ELWARD

RESERVING
WARBY RANGES?

Information Meeting
of
Range Protection
Society
THE CENTRE
DAY, APRIL 22
8 p.m.

14/8/75

Still waiting on Warby decision

The Warby Ranges Protection Society is waiting on a decision from the Mines Department on an application by ICI for mining licences for areas of the Warbys.

Mr Garth Hodge said yesterday a protest had been lodged with the Mines Department against the application.

Local councils had joined with the society, and he understood the National Trust was also lending their weight to the argument.

Mr Hodge said it was hoped the Mines Department would learn there was a strong community feeling against such use of the Warbys.

At present the society was waiting for a decision on ICI's application.

1-8-75

WARBY MINING NOW TO BE WATCHED BY NATIONAL TRUST

The Victorian division of the National Trust of Australia is keeping a close watch on mining proposals in the Warby Ranges.

Colonel S. R. Birch said from Melbourne this morning that the trust was aware of the proposal and was looking into it.

He said that the trust was working with the Ministry of Conservation on the issue.

"The ranges are of considerable interest to us, but as yet, we don't know all the facts", he said.

A committee member of the North East branch of the trust, Mr. Ted Ure, said yesterday that he had

recently received a letter from the trust headquarters on the subject.

The letter stated that the trust was concerned about the mining proposals, and that it would do everything in its power to ensure the conservation of the ranges.

The trust indicated that it had been in touch with government departments, including the Mines Department, regarding the matter.

Both the Wangaratta Shire Council and the Warby Range Protection Society have already planned protests to the Mines Department over the issue.

ICI Australia Ltd. has applied for a licence to mine 1927 acres in the ranges.

21-8-75

Minister urges shire to amend Warbys IDO

The Minister for Conservation, Mr. W. A. Borthwick, has urged the Wangaratta Shire Council to amend its interim development order concerning the Warby Ranges.

Mr. Borthwick said in a letter to the council meeting yesterday, that the Warby Ranges should be recognised as an "Area of Special Significance".

He said the council should implement more appropriate planning controls such as restrictions on residential development and tree preservation controls.

Mr. Borthwick was replying to a letter from the council informing him of their concern for preservation, and asking which areas should be acquired for conservation management.

Mr. Borthwick said he had instructed the Secretary for Lands to take appropriate steps to appoint the National Parks Advisory Committee as the Committee Of Management for the separate parcels of land in the Ranges.

Management plans

"This will allow the National Parks Service to establish control, appoint ranger staff and provide management plans," he said.

Mr. Borthwick said it would probably take about a month for these steps to be completed.

He said he had asked the National Parks Service to consider which lands ought to be acquired for addition to the existing Crown land

blocks, bearing in mind that funds were limited and it may be necessary to acquire all the land to preserve its conservation values.

"The National Parks Service recommends that the highest priority for land acquisition is for the steep, timbered slopes on the eastern side of the Ranges."

"This land is too steep for agricultural development and any clearing for residential development would destroy both the scenic amenity and conservation values of these slopes," he said.

Small clusters

Mr. Borthwick said the demand for residential lots could possibly be met by allowing small cluster subdivisions in areas of lesser conservation value where such development would have less adverse effects and be more easily serviced.

"The National Parks Service recommends that the existing residential lots on Crown Allotment 88B, Parish of Taminick be not acquired."

"These lots are close to the main road and land that has already been developed in the past for orchards.

"Although Crown Allotment 88 B will be surrounded by State Park, the Service believes that there are no other areas of higher priority for conservation management," he said.

Mr. Borthwick said he concurred with the Service's recommendation, and hoped the council would make immediate steps to amend the Interim Development Order to relieve residential development pressures.

"I should be happy to receive your prompt reaction to these proposals and I am prepared to make staff available to discuss and assist you in these matters," he said.

Step forward

Cr. Paul Larkings, a strong advocate for the preservation of the Ranges,

said the Minister's letter was a giant step forward for the community of Wangaratta.

He said Mr. Borthwick had no doubt recognised the facts which had been thumped out by the council

so many times before.

He said he agreed entirely with the steps to take tighter controls, but was concerned that a lot of things could happen between now and the time the controls are imposed.

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Sept 75

GOVERNMENT

WANGARATTA, MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1975.

GOVT. STEPS IN TO STOP WARBY RANGE DAMAGE

Step forward says society

The Victorian Government has stepped in to protect the Warby Ranges from mining or any other development.

Crown land in the ranges is to be reserved for public purposes under a notice given in the latest Victorian Government Gazette.

This means that the areas of Crown land are temporarily reserved from sale, lease and the granting of licences to mine the area.

And it almost certainly means the end of plans by ICI Australia Ltd. to mine part of the ranges.

The company had applied for a licence to mine 1927 acres of land in the ranges, but this met with strong protest from both the Warby Range Protection Society and the Wangaratta Shire Council.

The Minister for Conservation, Mr. Borthwick, is now seeking the co-operation of the Wangaratta Shire Council and the Benalla Shire in limiting activity on private land controlled by the shires in the Warbys.

He has already urged the Wangaratta Shire to amend its interim development order covering the Warbys.

He has asked that the land be classified as an "Area of Special Significance", and this request is likely to be met by the council.

Benalla Shire is also likely to co-operate in

moves to preserve the Warbys in their natural state.

The government's action is based on the fact that the unique flora and fauna of the Warbys is regarded as being of high conservation value.

Purchase land

It now appears likely that the government will purchase tracts of private land and turn the whole area into a National Park.

Mr. Borthwick had indicated that plans are in hand to appoint the National Parks Advisory Committee as the committee of management for parcels of land in the Warbys.

This will allow the National Parks Service to establish control, appoint ranger staff and provide management plans.

Chairman of the Warby Range Protection Society, Mr. Garth Hodge, said today that the Government decision was a major step forward in the preservation of the Ranges.

"I am delighted to hear that they have taken this action," he said.

Are aware

"It shows that they are aware of the Ranges, and of need to preserve them in their natural state."

Mr. Hodge said that the Society would still be active in conservation work in the area, and would be keeping a close eye on the Warbys.

"However, we are not confining our activities to the Warbys alone. We will be looking at other areas in the immediate vicinity," he said.

The Warby Range Protection Society was formed last August, although a group had been working unofficially for several months before this.

The Society was the first group to actually protest over the ICI plan, and it enlisted the support of the Wangaratta Shire Council.

The National Trust also indicated its interest in the

Warbys, and said that it would be doing all in its power to aid their preservation.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES: Yesterday's max. 13, overnight min. 2, at 9 a.m. today 6.

RAINFALL: In the 72 hours to 9 a.m. today, 8 mm.

BAROMETER: Barometric reading at 2 p.m. today was 1018 millibars and rising.

RIVER LEVEL: The Ovens River level at 9 a.m. today was 5.06 m.

BUREAU SAYS: Cloudy periods with patchy rain and mild north west to southwesterly winds. Outlook for Wednesday is mainly fine and cool to mild.

LIGHTS ON: Tonight at 5.52, and tomorrow night at 5.53.

LIGHTS OFF: Tomorrow morning at 6.51.

TOP

of Shanley St.

Sept 75

GOVERNMENT BUYS LAND IN WARBYS

The State Government has purchased 63 acres of land in the Warby Ranges which will be added to the Salisbury Falls Reserve

The Minister for Conservation, Mr. Borthwick, has announced the purchase, which cost the government \$45 000.

The 63 acres were two allotments in the Florida Grove Estate, which was auctioned on Saturday.

Mr. Borthwick said the purchase was made to protect the scenic amenity, and the conservation value of this section of the Warby Ranges.

He said the land was located on steep bushland slopes rising to the main ridge of the range.

"If housing had been permitted on these higher lots it would have involved clearing of vegetation and the provision of roads, SEC power lines and telephone lines," Mr. Borthwick said.

Mr. Borthwick said the department believed that housing on the remaining lots of the subdivision could be sited to avoid intrusion into the landscape, and the minimum environment damage and erosion.

He said the latest purchase was in line with the recent announcement that the government would be making limited purchases of freehold land with high conservation value.

The two allotments purchased are to be added to the existing crown land reserve and transferred to the management of the National Parks Service.

The two allotments one of 57.8 acres and the other of 5.2 acres were purchased the day before the Florida Grove Estate was auctioned.

It is understood there were other bodies interested in purchasing the land, which will now be preserved by the government.

Chairman of the Warby Range Protection Society, Mr. Garth Hodge, yesterday said he was delighted that an area of land with such aesthetic and environmental value had been taken over by the crown to prevent development.

The land in question is in the ranges behind the drive-in theatre at the end of Shanley St.

The two blocks purchased by the government are the highest in the allotment, with one offering a view from The Rock NSW, to Mount Buller.

Both are mainly natural bushland with permanent water supply.

The move to acquire the land now shows the government means business in its efforts to preserve the Warby Ranges.

Mr. Borthwick recently told the Wangaratta and Benalla Shire Councils that

they should take action to limit activity on private land in their areas.

He has urged the Wangaratta Shire Council to amend its interim development order covering the Warby ranges.

He has asked that the area be classified as an area of special significance.

Government action is based on the fact that the unique flora and fauna of the Warby Ranges is regarded as being of high conservation value.

1919/75

Shire will study ICI mining plans

A boost in economics and workforce would not justify the defacing of the natural beauty of the Warby Ranges, a Wangaratta Shire councillor said yesterday.

Cr. Paul Larkins said ICI Australia Ltd. was using the very powerful magnet of economics to try and gain council's support to explore the ranges for fluorspar.

"What they have done in fact, is bring out the old Trojan Horse," he said. "They say they don't intend to do any damage, and that the mining operation would boost the local workforce by 100 people and soon. But they don't give any guarantee that they will not go outside the proposed area of four hectares (10 acres)."

Continue opposition

"We should retain our opposition to their gaining a mining lease as it will be too late when the damage is done," he said.

Cr. Larkings was commenting on a six page letter submitted to the council by ICI senior process engineer, Mr. R. L. Abbott. In the letter, Mr. Abbott said ICI's primary plans were merely to explore quartz reefs already identified in the ranges and to locate any other signs of mineralization in the area covered by the exploration licence application.

He said it was anticipated that the first phase would indicate whether the prospect of mining the area should be followed up or abandoned.

However, Mr. Abbott did say that although the applied for lease areas would be their initial and possibly only target for intensive exploration, other areas of interesting mineralisation may be discovered during general exploration of the Silurian granite blocks north of Lake Mokoan and in the Warby Ranges.

He said that if the exploration did prove the mining of the area as a favorable proposition and they do go ahead with the idea, then up to 100 men could be employed.

Mr. Abbott said most of the quartz veins in the applied for lease areas would require underground mining and surface disturbance would only be about four hectares.

"Such an area is an insignificant part of the 16 000 hectares (40 000 acres) of the Warby Ranges."

"Even a much larger disturbance with commensurate increase in value of minerals would still be a minor part of the total area," he said.

Dust minimal

Mr. Abbott said that because of the underground nature of the mining, dust problems would be minimal and noise caused by crushing could be reduced by lagging the enclosed building or by placing the crushers underground.

He said some flotation reagents had objectionable odours, but this would not

extend outside the confines of the plant because the reagents usually degraded rapidly.

Mr. Abbott said it was the usual procedure to make substantial feasibility studies to support applications to the minister to grant mining leases.

Wangaratta Shire engineer, Mr. Frank Smith said he could see little harm in allowing ICI to carry out exploration studies.

However, he agreed with Cr. Larkings that there was no guarantee that they would not restrict their operations to the specific area.

Cr. Larkings said Australia was already importing 30 000 tons of fluorspar a year which was costing \$3 000 000.

"Continuation of the importing of fluorspar will not make Australia go broke," he said.

Council decided to defer the matter until the next meeting to enable further study of ICI's letter.

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ICI REQUIRED TO LODGE BOND

ICI Australia Ltd. will be required to lodge a bond with the Minerals and Energy Department before it can commence mineral exploration in the Warby Ranges.

The bond, of \$2000, will be forfeited if any, or part, of the exploration is not carried out in accordance with conditions set by the government.

The conditions have been laid down under which ICI will have to operate during its exploration of the Warby area.

The conditions are:
1.—As far as possible no trees or scrub are to be cleared from drill sites or access to drill sites. In any case, only trees with a circumference of less than 15 cms (equivalent to 5cm diameter) measured one metre from the ground may be removed.

2.—Drill holes are not to be sited or vehicles and equipment to be parked during the course of operations any closer than five metres to any grass-trees.

3.—Apart from refuelling, no servicing or maintenance of vehicles or equipment is to take place within the Warby Ranges. Any accidental spillage of oil or fuel is to be immediately cleared up and disposed of in an approved waste disposal area outside the Warby Ranges. A quantity of "fullers earth" or other suitable absorbent material shall be kept on site to mop up any accidental spillage.

4.—All internal combustion engines shall be fitted with effective spark arrestors and no operations shall be permitted on days of total fire ban. Two knapsack sprays filled with water shall be kept on site at all times.

5.—Before commencing operations, the forest litter shall be carefully raked from the drill site and for a distance of four metres surrounding the site.

Within five days of the completion of any drill hole, the hole shall be backfilled, all rock chips from the drilling removed from the site and forest litter respread over the area. If insufficient material is available for backfilling, granitic sand obtained outside the Warby Ranges shall be used to fill the holes.

Personnel associated with the operation are not permitted to camp within the Warby Ranges.

7.—The operations are to be under the supervision of an employee of ICI who

shall be on site at all times when operating and shall be responsible for all operations.

8.—An additional bond of \$2000 shall be lodged with the Secretary for Minerals and Energy. The bond shall be forfeited in whole or in part if the operations are not carried out in conformity with the above conditions or the drill sites and access to them is not restored to the satisfaction of the District Inspector Mines in consultation with an officer of the National Parks Service.

9.—Drill sites are to be selected in consultation with the National Parks Service and the Department of Minerals and Energy.

10.—All personnel associated with the project shall comply with the relevant provisions of the regulations made under the Lands Act for the reserve.

ICI Australia Ltd., is happy with conditions laid down for mineral exploration in the Warby Ranges.

A company spokesman said this morning ICI was pleased the State Government had approved its application for the next stage of exploration in the Warby Ranges.

ICI Australia noted that principles for exploration on Crown land, subject to conservation problems, had now been established.

"In the present circumstances it could be possible

would be subject to and regulations controlled by such bodies as the environment protection authority and local government authorities.

The spokesman said that stages of initial exploration activities would include aerial photographs to search for signs of mineralisation in the slurian granite blocks of the Warby Range north of Lake Mokosai.

Any unusual features so identified would be inspected on foot and possibly sampled.

to proceed to a wining operation under strict conditions in the Warby Ranges, should the exploration be successful", he commented.

The spokesman said the company anticipated no problems in complying with the conditions for drilling laid down by the Ministers for Conservation and Minerals and Energy.

The Warby Ranges environment would be protected if stringent conditions imposed on exploration by ICI Australia Ltd. were carried out.

Mr Alan Enslie, president of the Warby Ranges Protection Society, was more optimistic after learning of the conditions laid down by the Minister for Minerals and Energy, Mr Balfour, and Minister for Conservation, Mr Borthwick.

But he still believed that any minerals were in shallow deposits that would have to be extracted by open cut methods, and that most of the deposits were on private property in the ranges.

And it was in these areas, he said, that vegetation was twice as tall as growth over the rest of the ranges.

However, he believed the conditions were reasonable.

"It's the task of the Warby Ranges Protection Society and the people of Wangaratta and district to see these conditions are rigidly adhered to by the subcontractors and ICI", he said.

avoid using bulldozers and similar equipment for trenching.

Any bulk sampling would be from underground workings.

The spokesman said ICI appreciated that a mining operation would have an impact on Wangaratta and district.

Councils in the area had been supplied with the company's best estimate of possible location and size of a mine and employment details.

Representatives of the

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anges by ICI Australia Ltd. num and insignificant

the Victorian Secretary, a spokesman,

company have recently spoken to the Wangaratta City Council and Shire and the Benalla Shire.

An approach, to put the company's view has also been made to the Warby Range Protection Society.

Wangaratta City Council has decided following a meeting with ICI officials that it does not at this stage plan to alter its objections to any proposed mining in the ranges.

Wangaratta Shire Council will further discuss ICI's submissions at its next meeting.

Benalla Shire Council wants to discuss the matter of development in the Warbys with an officer of the Ministry of Conservation.

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ICI AWARE OF NEED TO SAVE ENVIRONMENT

Warby mining approach

Any exploration for minerals in the Warby Ranges by ICI Australia would be carried out in such a manner that minimum and insignificant disturbance would be caused to the environment.

This has been indicated in submissions to the Victorian Secretary for Mines for an exploration licence by the company, a spokesman said today.

A company spokesman said this morning that ICI Australia had applied to the Victorian Department of Mines for an exploration licence over about 100 square miles west of Wangaratta.

Application has also been made for mineral leases within a small sector of the area, including quartz reefs in the Warby Ranges where fluorspar has been identified to establish priority over other possible claimants for mining titles for this mineral.

Most of the quartz reefs so far located point clearly to a small underground operation should economic mineralisation be proved.

A mine of this scale would require surface works of about 10 acres.

Approval

Mining could only be established with the approval of the Minister of Mines and would be subject to acts and regulations controlled by such bodies as the environment protection authority and local government authorities.

The spokesman said that stages of initial exploration activities would include using aerial photographs to search for signs of mineralisation in the silurian granite blocks of the Warby Range and north of Lake Mokoan.

Any unusual features so identified would be inspected on foot and possibly chip sampled.

In specific areas of interest, such as the quartz reefs within the applied for leases, the area would be mapped and chip sampled.

This would involve placing temporary pegs for survey purposes. No vegetation would be cut down to create straight lines.

In the first phase, six to eight percussion drill holes would be put down in the applied for leases.

The spokesman said it appeared that a mobile drill would be positioned using existing timber tracks without the need to bulldoze roads.

He said it was anticipated that the first phase would indicate whether the prospect should be followed up or abandoned.

Any further exploration would be undertaken only with the approval of the State Mining engineer as provided for in the regulations.

ICI has undertaken to avoid using bulldozers and similar equipment for trenching.

Any bulk sampling would be from underground workings.

The spokesman said ICI appreciated that a mining operation would have an impact on Wangaratta and district.

Councils in the area had been supplied with the company's best estimate of possible location and size of a mine and employment details.

Representatives of the

company have recently spoken to the Wangaratta City Council and Shire and the Benalla Shire.

An approach, to put the company's view has also been made to the Warby Range Protection Society.

Wangaratta City Council has decided following a meeting with ICI officials that it does not at this stage plan to alter its objections to any proposed mining in the ranges.

Wangaratta Shire Council will further discuss ICI's submissions at its next meeting.

Benalla Shire Council wants to discuss the matter of development in the Warbys with an officer of the Ministry of Conservation.

BEAUTY SPOTS TO BE HIGHLIGHTED

Several little known beauty points will be highlighted in the open day in the Warby Ranges.

The open day, to be held next Sunday, has been arranged by the Warby Range Protection Society.

Several well qualified per-

sons will be available to give full information about the Ranges, and if practicable, a number of conducted tours will be conducted.

The open day will be centred on the Floran sanctuary, and this can be reached by turning right off the Hume Highway at the South Wangaratta hall and continuing straight through to the Ranges.

With the water courses running as they are at present, a little known but quite spectacular waterfall will be a highlight of the open day.

The granite quarry will also prove interesting.

Granite for all stages of the Holy Trinity Cathedral, and for several buildings in Melbourne was taken from this quarry.

A walking track covering several kilometres of rugged bush country will also be opened.

Severe erosion which occurred in the track last winter has been repaired and the ground stabilised by the Conservation branch of the Lands Department in conjunction with the Soil Conservation Authority.

As parking is limited at the quarry end of the sanctuary, visitors are requested to proceed to the northern end of the sanctuary by travelling from the Warby Range Rd. through Emslie's Olinda Grove property.

People should bring their own picnic gear and food, but hot water will be provided.

OPEN DAY IN RANGES

The Warby Range Protection Society is to hold an open day in

OPEN DAY IN RANGES

The Warby Range Protection Society is to hold an open day in the ranges on September 21.

The dual aim of the day is to promote both the ranges and the society.

The base for the open day will be the flora reserve at South Wangaratta, and there will be organised short hikes to vantage points in the area.

The society hopes that the ranges will be at their brilliant best by mid-September.

Rain mars open day

The Warby Ranges open day was almost washed out yesterday.

Mr. Garth Hodge, of the Warby Range Preservation Society said that about 30 to 40 enthusiasts attended the day, despite the rain.

Mr. Hodge said the possibility of repeating the open day would be discussed at an executive meeting of the preservation society tonight.

It had been planned to highlight several little-known beauty spots, including a spectacular waterfall and the granite quarry, during the day.

A walking track covering several kilometres of rugged bush country was also open.

17/11/11

OPEN DAY
AT WARBY RANGE
FLORA SANCTUARY

and

adjacent points of interest

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

1.30 p.m. onwards

B.Y.O. afternoon tea and
picnic gear. Hot water pro-
vided.

Recommended entry off
Warby Range Road through
Emslie's. Signs. Warby
Range Protection Society.

Chronicle 1/10/75

Parks man to talk on Warbys

The deputy director of the National Parks, Mr. D. Saunders, is to speak at a public meeting in Wangaratta next Monday night.

He is Mr D. Saunders, who has been invited to Wangaratta by the Warby Range Protection Society.

He has been asked to give his thoughts on the proposal by the Ministry for Conservation to appoint a National Parks advisory committee as the committee of management for part of the Warby Ranges.

The Ministry recently purchased land near the Salisbury Falls at the foot of the Warby Ranges as part of its plan to preserve the range.

Mr Adrian Twitt, publicity officer for the Range Protection Society, said that the society was delighted with the response in recent months regarding the preservation of the Range.

"The visit of Mr Saunders comes at a time when many members of the public are wondering what the government's intentions are, both in the short and long term", he said.

Mr Twitt said that the meeting will be held at The Centre, and it is hoped that a large crowd of local and district people will attend.

9-10-75

WARBIES TO GET

A ranger would be appointed by summer to patrol the Warby Ranges, a public meeting was told in Wangaratta on Monday night.

The announcement was made by the guest speaker, Mr Don Saunders, deputy - director of the National Park Service.

He said the appointment would be made as soon as money was available.

Mr Saunders was invited to the meeting by the Warby Range Protection Society to give the public a detailed plan of its management.

He said the service management had decided

A PARK RANGER

to take over because of clearing and subdivision in the area.

Mr Saunders said the service hoped to accept greater responsibility in planning of private areas.

He said this could be achieved through the Town and Country Planning Board.

About 45 people attended the meeting, including several land-owners adjacent to the ranges.

Chronicle 2/10/75

Warby ranger?

A full time ranger could be patrolling the Warby Ranges by the end of this year.

This was stated by the deputy director of the National Parks Service, Mr. Don Saunders at a meeting in Wangaratta on Monday night.

The meeting was called by the Warby Range Protection Society.

The Society invited Mr. Saunders to attend as guest speaker to outline the plans that his department has for management of sections of the Ranges.

He was accompanied by Mrs. Jane Lennon, the senior planning officer with the Service.

Detailed plans

Mr. Saunders said that the Service was currently drawing up detailed plans for the Crown Land area of the Ranges which would be coming under their management.

"We hope to have a ranger in the Warbys by the end of the year, but this will depend on whether finance is available.

"Our aim is to protect and preserve the natural environment, and to provide areas for outdoor recreation in natural surroundings," Mr. Saunders said.

He said that the move to have the National Parks take over management of Crown Lands in the Warbys had built up over a long period.

"There has been agitation from local municipalities, who have been asking for a lead on the development of the area from the Government.

"There has also been pressure from groups such

as the Warby Range Protection Society."

Mr. Saunders said that it was not the policy of the Service to acquire private land unless it was absolutely necessary.

"We feel that if there is proper planning by the municipalities concerned, then this will be unnecessary."

Two factors

He said that there had been two main factors which had caused the need for National Parks management and advice on the Warby Ranges.

These were the amount of land clearing that was going on, and the number of subdivisions.

Mr. Saunders stressed that the National Parks Service was not a statutory body that was going to interfere with local municipalities.

"We just want to assist them where possible. We hope to assist in the development of the Ranges as an influential body rather than a controlling body," he said.

The meeting was attended by about 50 people, including several landholders with property adjacent to the Ranges.

President of the Warby Range Protection Society, Mr. Bob English, chaired the meeting.

Mrs. Lennon outlined the actual planning taking place, and showed what the National Parks Service had been able to achieve in other areas.

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Warbys plan is clarified

The National Parks Authority will not have control of all unoccupied crown land in the Warby Ranges.

This was pointed out yesterday by the divisional forester at Wangaratta, Mr. Russ Ritchie.

He said that publicity had recently been given to the proposal to place areas of unoccupied crown land in the Ranges under a committee of management — namely the National Parks Authority.

"It should be noted that the jurisdiction of this committee of management will only apply to those areas of un-occupied Crown Land

between the Wangandary — Thoona road, south to Glenrowan.

"The areas of reserved forest which cover a large part of the northern end of the Range and are known as the Warby State Forest and Killawarra State Forest respectively, lie to the north of this Thoona — Wangandary road.

"These areas will still remain the full responsibility of the Forests Commission of Victoria for management, fire protection, issuing of firewood licences and recreation," he said.

Mr. Ritchie said that people are always free to use the roads and tracks within these two forest reserves for recreation purposes, but are warned that the use of trail bikes on other than made roads, renders the riders liable to prosecution;

"Dumping of rubbish is prohibited, and persons removing any forest produce (which includes soil), from these Forest Reserves without a licence also render themselves liable to prosecution.

"Licences to obtain dry firewood and limited quantities of posts and poles from these two large forested areas, may be obtained by contacting the District Office of the Forest Commission at Benalla.

Interference with native plants and animals is strictly prohibited within these two Reserved Forest Areas, as well as in the areas to come under control of the National Parks Authority," he warned.

16-10-75

Shire re-affirms its mining stand

Wangaratta Shire has re-affirmed its opposition to any mining, or mining exploration work in the Warby Ranges by ICI (Aust.) Ltd.

Council yesterday gave its support to opposition by the Warby Range Protection Society to ICI being granted an exploration licence covering areas of the Warbys.

The meeting was told by Mr Allan Emslie, acting president of the society, that ICI had mounted a considerable public relations exercise directed at undermining resistance to their exploration licence.....

Mr Emslie said ICI had stated the proposed mine may be of the vertical shaft type and that the crushed rock, after separation of fluoride concentrates, would be returned to the workings.

However, this was a very expensive project.

Mr Emslie said that as the depth of the ore body concerned in the application is mentioned at a few hundred feet, the society anticipated there was a strong possibility that the open cut method would be used.

"Indeed, this had not been ruled out by the company's representatives", he said.

He told council the society believed the area has been explored more extensively than the company has acknowledged.

Road concern

The society was also concerned at a suggestion that the company would construct access roads to the mine.

It felt that due to the nature of the country in wet weather, the construction of any road capable of carrying the heavy-duty ore trucks would require huge quantities of filling.

"This presumably would be gathered from areas on the base", he said.

The society also disputed a claim that a mine could give employment to up to 100 local people.

"If the underground method is used, this is not so.

"Winder drivers, jumbo operators, and powder monkeys are highly skilled personnel and require long training.

"However, the percentage of local employment would

be higher if the open cut method is used", Mr Emslie said.

"We understand that fluorospar occurs in several other places on the continent — but of course not with the convenient access to the national transport system which presents itself in the Warby Range area.

Give impetus

The most disturbing aspect of the application is that if successful, it will give impetus for further pressure for "development" in the Warby Range.

"In this connection, although only 10 acres is mentioned, it opens the door for other land use applications", Mr Emslie commented.

"The council will be aware that many private holders of what has hitherto been regarded as relatively cheap and low class land are naturally anxious to capitalise on the current demand for "get-away - from - it - all" blocks.

"Although water in periods of extreme dry weather will be totally inadequate for the development already authorised, buyers and sellers are exerting continual pressure on the relative authorities for permits.

"The company has made the reservation that it is not possible to define the size of the mine which could follow.

Not defining

"Indeed, the company is not definite about anything, not excepting the possibility of open cut mining.

"The executive of the Warby Range Protection Society, comprising a cross-section of responsible citizens of the district and with access to legal, scientific and engineering knowledge, is convinced that the ultimate denudation of the frail tree and soil cover of the range would be disastrous to the ecology of the region", Mr Emslie stated.

Cr. Paul Larkings told the meeting he agreed with the society that ICI's application should be opposed.

Councillors unanimously supported his proposal that council's previous opposition to any mining or exploration be re-affirmed.

17-10-75

SURVEY SEEKS PUBLIC'S VIEWS ON WARBYS

Students of the Wangaratta Technical College are conducting a survey to determine the public attitude to the future of the Warby Ranges.

Students in forms 5 and 6 at the college will survey about 2000 residents in Wangaratta commencing on Monday.

They have selected every sixth person on the electoral roll for the survey.

Funds for the project have come from a grant received by the school.

The students have prepared a brochure in which the features of the ranges are outlined, and the threats they see to the environment of the area explained.

Selected residents will be provided with a copy of the brochure and a questionnaire.

The aim of the survey is to find out what use people now make of the ranges, and what use they would

like to see made of the area in the future.

Questions posed include attitudes to housing, farming, off-road vehicles, soil removal, wood cutting and mining.

The students are also aiming to find out if people would like to see more land under public ownership. They say that at present about 55 per cent. of the ranges are privately owned.

People contacted during the survey will be asked whether they would like the ranges as a national, state, regional or multi-purpose park.

The students will begin distributing the questionnaires on Monday.

They plan to leave them with householders and col-

lect them a few days later.

A spokesman for the group said it was hoped people contacted co-operated and completed the questions put to them.

The students plan to have the results of their survey compiled in a few weeks.

It will then be made public and sent to various interested bodies connected with the Warbys.

These include State and Federal Ministers for Conservation, the Lands and Mines Departments, local government bodies with an interest in the area.

The survey follows growing interest in the Warbys by conservation groups, particularly after moves by ICI Aust. to obtain mining exploration leases for some of the area.

The application is being opposed by the Warby Range Protection Society and the Wangaratta Shire and City Council.

Once completed the survey is expected to give a strong indication of the thoughts of the people of the city towards the preservation or development of the area.

MINING CLUB 22-10

22-10-75

MINING SURVEY GETS APPROVAL

Benalla Shire Council will offer no objection to ICI Australia Ltd. exploration licence for an area of 10 acres in the Warby Ranges.

Shire secretary, Mr. R. C. McDiarmid, said that council had decided it would offer no objection to ICI exploration for fluorospar in the Warby Ranges.

Mr. McDiarmid said council had not made any decision on its attitude to mining in the area.

A representative of ICI has set the Wangaratta City, Wangaratta Shire and Benalla Shire councils, in committee, to discuss the company's proposals for the area.

Acting president of the Warby Range Protection Society, Mr. Allan Emslie had asked council to oppose any mining or mining exploration work in the Warby Ranges by ICI.

The company representative also outlined the mining proposal to members of the protection society.

Since then, the society has indicated its strong opposition to any mining activities in the Warbys.

Wangaratta City and Wangaratta Shire also reiterated their opposition to any mining exploration in the area.

Conservationists and the protection

society want the range maintained in its natural state.

Wangaratta Technical School students are currently conducting a survey to determine the public attitude to any future development of the Warbys.

In a letter to this weeks meeting of council, Mr. Emslie said that the society was aware that ICI had mounted a considerable public relations exercise in the past few weeks, directed at undermining resistance to their exploration licence.

The society is concerned that the open cut method of mining will be used and that the provision of access roads and easements for water and power lines would require extensive clearing and the ultimate denudation of the frail tree and soil cover of the range, with disastrous effects to the ecology of the region.

Two representatives of the Ministry of Conservation, Mrs. Lennon and planning officer, Mr. George Wright, attended the meeting to explain to councillors moves to have the range declared a national park and the types of land use controls which it felt council should be thinking of introducing for the area.

23-10-75

BENALLA SHIRE CRITICISED FOR ICI APPROVAL

Acting president of the Warby Range Protection Society, Mr. Allan Emslie, today criticised Benalla Shire Council for its "disinterest" in the Warby Ranges.

This followed Benalla Shire Council's decision this week to offer no objection to ICI Australia Ltd. exploration licence for an area of 10 acres in the Warby Ranges.

"It is typical of their disinterest in the region," Mr. Emslie said.

He said the Warby Ranges were in an unusual geographical situation, as the Benalla Shire Council's boundary came within five miles of Wangaratta, and takes in most of the ranges.

Yet, all services were provided by Wangaratta.

Mr. Emslie said the decision would not have an effect on the Benalla ecology, but would effect Wangaratta's ecology.

Mr. Emslie said a letter sent to the Benalla Shire Council from the Protection Society explained all the dangers of approving the exploration licence, or opening the ranges for subdivision.

He said the Benalla Shire hadn't approved the exploration licence, but they hadn't objected to it.

He said the final say on mining will rest with the Minister for Mines, and some sort of decision is expected within the next six months.

The Federal and State conservation department has lodged strong objection to any mining in the Warby Ranges, Mr. Emslie said.

"There is even greater danger if the Wangaratta

end of the Warby Ranges is opened up for development."

He said that initial development in the ranges would lead to further development.

"The trouble is it is all so ill-planned," Mr. Emslie said.

He said the Warbies are a terribly dry area, and water is a major problem, particularly if there is further development.

Mr. Emslie said Benalla Shire Council were yet to work out their policy regarding mining in the ranges.

He said mining left a permanent scar on the landscape.

He said a place like Broken Hill was a prime example. Work continues until the mineral supplies run out.

"Once the damage is done it is there forever," he said.

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re forever," he said.

ICI Warbys licence was no real surprise

The granting of a permit for ICI Aus-
tralia to search for minerals in the Warby
Ranges has come as no real surprise to Mr.
Allan Emslie of the Warby Range Protection
Society.

Mr. Emslie said the first
he knew of the approval was
what he read in yesterday's
Chronicle.

"It is a rather disappoint-
ing decision from a conserva-
tion viewpoint, but not
completely unexpected.

"History has shown that
the almighty dollar always
wins out over moves to pre-
serve things for the future,"
he said.

Mr. Emslie said the society
would continue in its efforts
to prevent all forms of de-
velopment in the Warby
Ranges.

He said he was particular-
ly concerned that the ap-

proval for ICI to look for
minerals would lead to ap-
proval to mine, and then to
approval of housing and
other development.

"Any development in the
Warbys is of concern," he
said.

Mr. Emslie said the struc-
ture of the ranges made it
very difficult for the natural
environment to recover from
clearing and development
operations.

He said the thin topsoil
covering meant regeneration
was extremely slow.

Mr. Emslie said he would
be looking into the matter
of the ICI permit in the
near future to see what was
involved.

On Monday night ICI
told the Wangaratta City
Council it had been given
permission by Mines Minis-
ter Mr. Balfour to look for
minerals.

Council was told there
were a number of conditions
included in the permission,
and that no drilling or re-
moval of topsoil could be
undertaken without permis-
sion of the minister.

Mr. Balfour's move has
been strongly opposed by the
Wangaratta City Council
which wants landholders in
the area to refuse the com-
pany permission to enter
their land.

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ploration licence.

The first was that before
any phase of exploration
commenced, the company
will be required to notify
the secretary for mines of
the intention, full details

EXPLORATION IN WARBYS IS APPROVED

By
KEN
DYASON

The mining company, ICI Australia Ltd., has been granted an exploration licence to search for minerals in areas of the Warby Ranges.

The company has told the Wangaratta City Council that the Minister for Mines, Mr. Balfour, has approved an exploration licence.

However, the council will strongly oppose the move with a protest to Mr. Balfour and a request to landholders to refuse ICI permission to enter their land.

A letter from the company advising of the approval, was received at Monday night's city council meeting.

Council was told there were two important conditions contained in the exploration licence.

The first was that before any phase of exploration commenced, the company will be required to notify the secretary for mines of the intention, full details

of the work to be carried out, the proposed date, the work will start, the expected duration, precise locality, and within 14 days of completion again notify the secretary for mines.

The second condition provides that ICI shall not carry out any bulk sampling drilling or excavation work to uncover mineral deposits, or construct access tracks within the licence area without the written approval of the minister.

The company told council that the exploration program was being drawn up for the minister's approval.

Approval needed

The program was still subject to the company obtaining the necessary approval from the affected landowners, including the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey.

Cr. Alan Bell said the minister had seen fit to grant a licence despite the opposition to the move by a number of councils and organisations concerned with the Warby Ranges.

Cr. Bell said the company's representative had failed to indicate at a meeting with council that open cut mining would not take place in the ranges.

"It was quite clear that open cut mining would take place if minerals are found near the surface," Cr. Bell commented.

Cr. Bell successfully moved that council express its disappointment that the exploration licence has been granted.

"I am sure others concerned with this matter will follow," he commented.

Cr. Jean McKenna said the company had indicated the approval of landowners in the area was also needed for the exploration.

She suggested council should write to all landowners, including the commissioner for crown lands and survey, urging them to not give their approval.

Councillors agreed to the suggestion, and also decided to send copies of the letter to local parliamentarians.

Felt strongly

Cr. Bren Milsom said he felt very strongly about the matter.

He said council should ask the minister to inform them of any exploration he should approve.

"I hope he doesn't approve any exploration at all," Cr. Milsom commented.

He said the minister

should also be asked what surveillance would be kept over the company to ensure it did not do anything for which it did not have approval.

"The minister should also ensure any progress should be advertised," he said.

Council makes it clear

Wangaratta City Council is to inform the Warby Range Protection Society that it agrees with the society's view on mining exploration in the Warbys.

This follows a letter from the society outlining its views and opposing an exploration licence by ICI

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"The minister should also ensure any progress should be advertised," he said.

Council makes it clear

Wangaratta City Council is to inform the Warby Range Protection Society that it agrees with the society's view on mining exploration in the Warbys.

This follows a letter from the society outlining its views and opposing an exploration licence by ICI Australia Ltd.

The mayor, Cr. Doug Evans, said council had made its view very obvious to ICI and to all concerned.

Cr. Milsom suggested the society be informed of the decision made by council on the matter at an earlier meeting.

Cr. Kevin Howard said he was concerned to find the shire in whose land most of the Warbys were located did not agree with the society and the city on the mining issue.

Cr. Howard said this attitude was disappointing, but council could do nothing about it.

cil

Cr. Larkings said the council should write to the Minister for Mines expressing the council's disappointment at the decision and inquiring what criteria had been used to reach it.

"It is very important to find out on whose say so this decision was made, especially in view of the city and shire having expressed opposition to it.

"It makes me wonder whether we have any influence on these matters at all.

"Are the large companies just so powerful that you can't stop them from getting their own way?" he asked.

Cr. Jock O'Keefe told the council that Benalla Shire had not opposed the granting of the licence and this had given the Minister the way to get out.

Council decided to write to the Minister expressing their disapproval of his decision to grant the licence.

It was also moved a letter be written to the Secretary for Mines asking to be kept up to date with all future developments by ICI.