

How we counted the homes near the quarry

Prepared 13 October 2026 · Supports the campaign page figure "18 homes within 500 m"

In short: 18 homes have their house yard within 500 m of the proposed quarry (WA008569) or the existing quarry (WA495), counting each home once. 14 of those 18 homes are on lots that were created before the existing quarry was granted in 1996.

What we measured

The number of homes whose house yard is within 250 m, 500 m and 1 km of the boundary of either work authority: WA008569 (proposed) and WA495 (existing quarry).

We treat the two as one operation because Fish Creek Quarries has said rock from the new pit would be processed at the existing quarry. Each home is counted once, even if it is near both.

Why 500 m

EPA Victoria's separation distance guideline (Publication 1949, April 2025) recommends 500 m between a quarry that produces respirable crystalline silica and sensitive land uses such as homes. A shorter distance can be accepted only with evidence that the risk is low. The guideline is a guide, not a fixed rule.

How we did it

- **Quarry boundaries:** the official work authority boundaries for WA008569 and WA495 from the Victorian Government's earth resources tenement data (downloaded 23 September 2026). No work plan or activity boundary has been released, so we measured to the work authority boundary.
- **Finding homes:** every primary street address within 1 km of either work authority (Vicmap Address; 60 addresses). Each was checked against aerial imagery and local knowledge to confirm whether a home stands there.
- **House yards:** drawn by hand on aerial imagery, following EPA Publication 1949's Method 2 for measuring from the edge of the area used with a home (house, sheds, garden and similar), shaped as a convex outline. Where a yard was not drawn, we measured from the house.
- **Distances:** the shortest straight-line distance from each yard (or house) to the nearer work authority boundary, measured in GIS (QGIS, MGA zone 55).
- **Exclusion:** one dwelling on land in the same ownership as the quarry was left out, as Publication 1949 allows.

Results

House yard within	Proposed quarry (WA008569)	Existing quarry (WA495)	Either (each home counted once)
250 m	7	3	8
500 m	12	13	18
1 km	33	32	40

One further home is at about 500 m (502 m) and is not counted. The per-quarry figures can't be added together, because six homes are within 500 m of both.

When the lots were created

We checked the registration date of each of the 18 lots in Vicmap Property. 14 were created before the existing quarry's work authority was granted (1 June 1996), and 13 before its planning permit (1993). The earliest dates from December 1982.

Four lots have no registration date in Vicmap. Their plan type (LP) was replaced by PS plans from 1989, so we have treated them as created before 1989; title searches would confirm this. A lot's date is not the date its house was built.

Limits

- Distances are to the work authority boundaries. Publication 1949 measures from the quarry's activity boundary. If the activity boundary in a future work plan sits inside the work authority, distances would be longer; haul roads, stockpiles and bunds could sit anywhere inside it.
- Measurements come from aerial imagery and are accurate to a few metres, not to survey standard.
- Homes were confirmed from imagery and local knowledge, not by visiting each one.

What we have not published

Addresses, names and house-by-house distances are held back to protect our neighbours' privacy. We will provide them to the regulator or a tribunal on request.

Sources

- EPA Victoria, *Separation distance guideline*, Publication 1949, April 2025.
- Victorian Government, earth resources tenements (WA008569, WA495), downloaded 23 September 2026.
- Vicmap Address and Vicmap Property (Department of Transport and Planning), downloaded 3 October 2026.
- Fish Creek Quarries, public Facebook post, 12 May 2026 (processing at the existing quarry).
- Prom Coast Guardians GIS measurement, 3 October 2026 (house yards drawn by Richard McAllister).

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