



The community we live in:

RESIDENTS FIGHT TO STOP BUNNINGS IN GLENLYON RD

Bunnings are ubiquitous in suburban Melbourne. They offer convenience and competitively priced products, but would you be ok with one built in your street abutting and overlooking your property? Well, that is exactly what Wesfarmers and developer Brunswick Investment Project have proposed to do at 145 Glenlyon Rd and 6 Pitt St, Brunswick. Andrea Bunting, President of Glenlyon Bunnings Action Group (GBAG), says that 'the site is surrounded by about 150 homes. The proposal is not only unprecedented for the area but for Bunnings itself. I don't know of any other Bunnings store surrounded by so many homes.'

Andrea claims that residents only found out about the proposal in August last year despite the fact that the proposal had been with Moreland City Council (MCC) for some time. Under the \$21 million plan, the Chamton building on Glenlyon Road would be demolished and replaced with a two-storey warehouse plus two levels of car park that backs onto Pitt Street for truck exit.

The campaign to stop this proposal shows how effective community campaigns can be when faced with development proposals that residents believe are not in the community's best interests. Through word of mouth and letterboxing, Andrea and other residents mounted a campaign that resulted in over 500 objections to the proposal being lodged with MCC.

'While overshadowing and loss of sunlight are concerns,' says Andrea, 'the biggest issue is traffic.' Bunnings Warehouse generate high volumes of traffic whether customers, trade or 19 metre semi-trailers delivering stock. The proposed operating hours – for both trade and the general public – are 6am-10pm. MCC voted unanimously against the proposal in December last year.

So what now? Brunswick Investment Project have lodged an appeal at VCAT and it will be contested on 26 April 2021 by both MCC and GBAG. The latter have engaged a planning advocate, and experts on traffic safety and social impacts to argue the community's case. 'We are not only determined to win,' adds Andrea. 'But we firmly believe that it is very winnable because it is a congested area already and the traffic generated by this proposal will be huge.' GBAG have set up a Fighting Fund to cover their costs at VCAT and have so far raised \$21,000 of their \$30,000 target. The group have been successful so far in lobbying the council, but the fight is not over yet.

For more information about this issue visit: <https://stopbunningsglenlyon.org/>

Some photos sourced from: [Stop Bunnings Glenlyon - Brunswick](#)

