

Detailed Objection Submission – Monaro Rock Quarry (SSD-27223807)

To: NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Re: Objection to Monaro Rock Quarry Project (SSD-27223807)

I object to the Monaro Rock Quarry proposal. As a resident relying daily on the Monaro Highway and local environment, I will be directly and negatively affected. The EIS leaves multiple issues unresolved and shifts risks to government and residents. This is inequitable, contrary to the precautionary principle in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and inconsistent with NSW's Net Zero obligations.

1. Road Safety & Public Liability

The Transport Assessment admits the quarry will generate up to **200 laden truck movements per day** merging into an already hazardous section of the Monaro Highway. The design relies on an unsignalised merge, which increases crash risks.

Risks:

- Increased accident frequency and severity.
- Ratepayers funding road upgrades and repairs.
- Lack of clarity on liability if crashes increase.

Requests:

1. Government-funded independent corridor safety review before determination.
2. Written guarantee that all upgrades/repairs are funded from state infrastructure budgets, not council rates.
3. Pause determination until liability allocation framework is finalised.

I'm not a traffic engineer — I'm just someone who drives this road every day. It frightens me to think of my family trying to merge alongside hundreds of quarry trucks in an area already known as dangerous. Please don't wait for lives to be lost before taking this seriously.

2. Air Quality & Human Health

The Air Quality Assessment shows a **PM2.5 exceedance**【Monaro Rock_EIS_App B】. The Human Health Risk Assessment acknowledges major uncertainty in toxicity values【Monaro Rock_EIS_App C】.

Risks:

- Long-term respiratory illness in children and elderly.
- Health system costs borne by government.
- Breach of national air quality standards.

Requests:

1. EPA-led independent baseline and real-time monitoring with automatic shutdowns.
2. NSW Health cumulative impact inquiry into all regional quarries.
3. Pause approval until results are completed and public.

I don't have the resources to run air monitors at my home, but I do have children and elderly neighbours who will breathe this dust every single day. It feels deeply unfair that our health could be gambled on uncertain modelling. We need protection, not promises.

3. Noise, Blasting & Amenity

Blast and noise assessments are labelled “preliminary”【Monaro Rock_EIS_App E, D】. They rely on the **Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy (VLAMP)** — effectively conceding residents' amenity will be sacrificed.

Risks:

- Structural damage to homes.
- Chronic noise impacts on residents.
- Government exposed to compensation disputes.

Requests:

1. Independent peer review of all modelling.
2. Government-appointed ombudsman for monitoring and complaints.
3. Pause approval until cumulative regional quarry study is completed.

Our homes are not just buildings — they're where we rest, raise families, and try to live in peace. The idea that we should simply endure blasting and noise, and then maybe seek compensation afterwards, feels like our wellbeing is being treated as expendable.

4. Water Resources

Excavation to 100m and a new bore risk groundwater drawdown【Monaro Rock_EIS_App L】. Surface Water Assessment is based on “average” rainfall【Monaro Rock_EIS_App K】, ignoring climate-driven variability.

Risks:

- Loss of private bores and farm water.
- Flood damage underestimated.
- Long-term water insecurity.

Requests:

1. Government-led baseline groundwater and surface water studies.
2. Public thresholds with automatic suspension if exceeded.
3. Pause until regional water security plan is finalised.

Water is not a luxury in our region, it's a lifeline. I don't have the power to drill new bores or replace lost supply. If something goes wrong, it will be people like us who live with the consequences long after the company is gone.

5. Biodiversity & Federal Triggers

The BDAR shows impacts on **Box-Gum Woodland and Pale Pomaderris**【Monaro Rock_EIS_App G】. Offsets are speculative and staged. EPBC referral unresolved.

Risks:

- Irreversible loss of critically endangered ecosystems.
- Approval without federal clearance risks illegality.

Requests:

1. Secure offsets locally and in perpetuity before disturbance.
2. Government biodiversity audit of credit feasibility.
3. Pause until EPBC outcomes are integrated.

I may not be a scientist, but I know the land around here is precious. Once rare species or old woodlands are destroyed, they're gone forever. It's hard not to feel powerless when offsets are used as a trade-off for permanent loss in our own backyard.

6. Economic Need

The Economic Assessment assumes demand growth【Monaro Rock_EIS_App M】 despite two existing quarries with sufficient capacity.

Risks:

- Duplication of supply.
- Waste of land and environmental resources.
- Breach of “public interest” test under planning law.

Requests:

1. Treasury-led independent market need and value-for-money review.
2. Infrastructure NSW confirmation of existing capacity.
3. Reject if duplication confirmed.

I run on a household budget like most people around here, and if I wasted money on things we didn't need, I'd be held accountable. It feels wrong that a project like this can be justified on speculation when we already have quarries supplying the region.

7. Climate Obligations

The quarry will generate significant emissions from blasting, diesel haulage, and dust. The EIS does not test consistency with NSW's **Net Zero Plan Stage 2** or the **Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023**.

Requests:

1. Independent emissions accounting against NSW climate targets.
2. Government climate compatibility assessment before determination.
3. Refuse if project undermines statutory net zero obligations.

I'm no expert on emissions targets, but I do know we're all being asked to do our bit to cut carbon — from how we drive to how we heat our homes. It feels unfair that ordinary families shoulder the cost of change while big projects can slip through without being properly tested.

Conclusion

The Monaro Rock Quarry presents unacceptable risks to road safety, human health, biodiversity, water security, and climate targets. The EIS is incomplete, reliant on assumptions, and shifts liability and costs onto residents and government.

It is inequitable and contrary to both law and public interest to approve this project. I respectfully request the Department **permanently refuse the Monaro Rock Quarry proposal (SSD-27223807)**.

Kind regards,

Hayley Bennett

[REDACTED], Royalla NSW 2620

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