

23rd September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Monaro Rock Pty Ltd – Monaro Rock Quarry (SSD-27223807)

I am writing to you in relation to the application of state significant development to establish a rock quarry close to the Googong township. There are several concerns relating to this application that impact not only to our local township, but also to the local residents that live on farms surrounding the proposed quarry site.

My family lives approx. 2-3 KMs from the proposed mining site. We live on 22 acres of land and grow our own vegetables, farming sheep and cattle for our own consumption. We collect our drinking water from the rain that falls on our house and shed rooves. This water is our only source of drinking water and if contaminated would be costly to fix both from a financial issue and personal Health issue. Whilst the reports submitted appear to have gone through the appropriate testing on air quality and winds, these tests were completed between 6.4 km (Tuggeranong - Isabella Plains), 16.6km (Canberra Airport) and 34.9 km (Mount Ginni). While such testing may be suitable for assessing potential health concerns affecting nearby communities, it is concerning that no testing was conducted directly at the site or in proximity to the impacted populations. Silica dust and other airborne particles linked to cancer pose significant health risks, especially for the many young families settling in Googong and nearby Canberra districts. The proposed mine could impact both individual health and strain the broader health systems in Canberra and New South Wales. I am concerned the impacts this proposed quarry will have on my families health but also the local community we work in. We have a right to live a health lifestyle without having a simple thing such as dust effecting our health.

The proposed mine will increase traffic on Monaro Highway, Old Cooma Road, and Mates Drive. Surveys in May–June 2021 showed weekday daily averages of 2,200 vehicles on Old Cooma Road and 8,000 on Monaro Highway (north). However, these figures don't reflect expected growth as Googong develops, nor do they account for future traffic from a completed township or additional mine-related vehicles. While the mine will pay rates and fees, road maintenance costs will fall to Queanbeyan-Palerang Council and ACT Roads Authority. I am concerned this could lead to higher council rates due to increased road wear.

The disruption of increased road traffic on a local street being Mates Drives until the road structures are established out to Monaro Road is not acceptable as the road surface will need to be upgraded to cope with the heavy traffic and the noise disruptions to the local residents can impact not only dust effecting vegetable gardens etc but also the animals such as horses, sheep and cattle.

The proposed mine site includes critically endangered Box-Gum Grassy Woodland. Although alternative areas have been set aside for biodiversity, they cannot substitute for the loss of these species. The project would affect 77.83 hectares of vegetation and could have broader environmental repercussions. These woodlands, which took years to develop, support local bird and organism life, and their destruction would be irreversible and leave a lasting negative impact. I acknowledge the development application has mentioned proposed additional vegetation to accommodation for the Box Gum Grassy Woodland but this will not replace the irreversible damage that can be done with the existing protected area.

When the last local quarry was established many years ago, residents experienced significant electricity disruptions that took years to resolve. The impact of these issues on the community was considerable and should not be underestimated.

With the proposed mine, similar concerns regarding electricity supply are relevant and warrant thorough attention. In households like mine, where family members depend on stable electricity for essential medical devices, it is crucial that this matter receives careful consideration. I do not believe this has been adequately addressed in the current application.

Blasting is vital for the mine but living just 2–3 km away means our home's stability, livestock, and noise levels are affected six days a week. The application addresses technical aspects but ignores local concerns like noise and vibrations. We chose a rural life for peace and quiet, which is now threatened, along with our buildings and water tanks, from ground vibrations.

If approved, this mine would become the fourth within a 30 km radius. The three existing mines—operated by Boral, Holcim, and Hanson—combined have an estimated operational capacity exceeding 100 years. Considering this, there appears to be no substantive need for an additional mine, aside from the fact that the proposed operation by Manaro Rock (a company currently dependent on resources from the existing sites) would introduce a new competitor into the market. Given the combined longevity and capacity of the current mines to meet local demand for the foreseeable future, the necessity of a state-level significance of this proposed quarry is questionable.

It is important to consider that the introduction of a fourth competitor could increase competition within the industry; however, this should not come at the expense of public

health, increased traffic, or further degradation of endangered bushland. As responsible adults and representatives of the state government, we are tasked with safeguarding the interests of future generations. This includes managing and protecting environmental assets, ensuring positive long-term health outcomes, and mitigating preventable impacts associated with extractive industries. Approving this proposal may compromise protected environments and adversely affect community health outcomes, rather than preserving these values for the next generation.

The proposed site is currently zoned as farming land. Although the application qualifies as a State Signification proposal, it differs from the area's historical zoning. While acknowledging the importance of societal development, there are concerns about potential impacts on families, the community, public health, and the environment. I do not support this application and request that the possible long-term effects on both people and the environment be carefully considered.

Kind Regards

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the resident.

Resident