

21 September 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Monaro Rock Quarry Project: Objection

I wish to object to approval of the Monaro Rock Quarry Project (“the Project”).

I object on three grounds:

1. the project is un-necessary
2. the project is undesirable, and
3. the project is unsuitable for the proposed location

Unnecessary

Evidence shows that current quarries located in and around the Canberra/Queanbeyan region have sufficient capacity to meet expected future building, construction and road maintenance requirements for several decades. There is no demonstrated need to open up a new quarry.

Undesirable

It could be argued that even if a new quarry is technically unnecessary, it would provide jobs and bring added competition to the Canberra region market for quarry products, potentially putting downward pressure on construction costs.

These benefits are speculative.

It is also unlikely that these benefits, even if they were realised, would offset the cost of externalities:

1. the additional cost of upgrading and maintaining the Monaro Highway to support the expected additional 500 heavy vehicle movements per day,
2. the un-necessary drawing of additional water from the Murray-Darling basin system,
3. the loss of local biodiversity, including endangered species of plant,
4. the additional health costs arising from the detrimental impact of air-borne dust,
5. the cost to business and households from the accumulation of airborne quarry dust in water supplies and on rooftop solar PV panels and solar farms, and
6. the likely cost of upgrading electricity supplies in surrounding districts and suburbs to prevent power surges related to quarry operations.

Locationally Unsuitable

Medical evidence shows that airborne silica dust is a health hazard, aggravating a range of respiratory illnesses and chronic conditions.

No level of exposure to airborne quarry dust is safe, and the risk is cumulative over the length of time people are exposed.

Evidence shows that airborne silica dust can affect persons living within a radius of between twelve and sixteen kilometres from a quarry site. Currently it is estimated that some 49,000 people live within this distance of the proposed Monaro Rock quarry. The nearest substantial concentration of people is in the suburb of Theodore in the ACT which is within two to three kilometres of the site.

The potentially at-risk population is expected to grow substantially in coming years as a result of new housing developments currently under way in South Jerrabomberra and Googong. This is likely to include numbers of young children who are especially at risk from early exposure to wind-borne pollutants.

The continued dispersion of windborne dust from existing quarries at Googong and Williamsdale shows that proposed mitigation measures including water suppression and enclosing crushing machinery are less than effective in preventing dust nuisance.

Given the emerging evidence of the risk to health of airborne silica dust it would seem unwise to agree to the location of any new quarry within a radius of 12 kilometres of any residential settlement.

I hope you will consider these objections favourably.

Yours faithfully

Ian Ewing

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Ian Ewing.

Royalla, NSW 2620