

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.

This is inequitable, contrary to the precautionary principle in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and inconsistent with NSW's Net Zero obligations.

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.

1. Road Safety & Public Liability

I drive the Monaro Highway most days, and I'm constantly seeing near misses; I've recently installed dashcam footage to capture this behaviour. Adding quarry trucks will turn a known hazard into a guaranteed disaster. My family's safety, my parents, my wife, my children, should not depend on whether private companies can push freight through an unsafe corridor.

Risks:

- Increased crash rates, particularly at the already hazardous merge points.
- Heavy vehicles conflicting with local traffic, tourists, and agricultural users.
- Emergency services stretched due to higher accident rates.
- Costs of road upgrades and repairs unfairly shifted to ratepayers.
- Legal liability disputes between council, state, and proponent.

Requests:

1. A government-led independent safety and traffic impact review, including crash modelling.
2. A written guarantee that upgrades, maintenance, and future repairs are 100% state-funded, not imposed on residents via rates.
3. Liability allocation clarified in law before any approval.

2. Air Quality & Public Health

Dust does not respect fence lines. If my children are forced to breathe particulate matter from this quarry, the damage will last a lifetime. Breathing clean air is not negotiable.

Risks:

- PM2.5 and crystalline silica exceedances harming children, elderly, and vulnerable residents.
- Increased respiratory illness, higher asthma rates, long-term cardiovascular impacts.
- Additional burden on local GPs and regional health services.
- Devaluation of property in affected dust zones.

Requests:

1. EPA-led independent baseline air quality study before determination.
2. NSW Health review of projected impacts on community wellbeing.
3. Binding conditions requiring continuous monitoring with automatic suspension triggers when exceedances occur.

3. Noise & Blasting Impacts

Our homes are meant to be sanctuaries. If blasting cracks our walls and disturbs our nights, no after-the-fact compensation will restore peace of mind.

Risks:

- Blasting vibrations causing structural damage to homes and farm infrastructure.
- Chronic noise exposure creating stress, sleep disturbance, and mental health impacts.
- Proponent's reliance on "mitigation" rather than prevention breaching the precautionary principle.
- Long-term community resentment and conflict.

Requests:

1. Independent peer review of noise and vibration modelling.
2. Appointment of a government ombudsman to oversee blasting and noise complaints.
3. A cumulative impact study across all nearby extractive industries.

4. Water Security & Risk to Bores

Water is life on the Monaro. Once contaminated or depleted, no report or model can bring it back. We rely on our bores, tanks, and creeks — not promises.

Risks:

- Excavation to depths of 100m risking groundwater drawdown and private bore loss.
- New quarry bore potentially competing with local water users.
- Flood risk under extreme rainfall underestimated in the EIS.
- Irreversible contamination of surface water pathways.

Requests:

1. Government-led hydrological and flood risk studies independent of the proponent.
2. Enforceable suspension thresholds if local bores are impacted.
3. A regional water security plan completed before any determination.

5. Biodiversity & Habitat Loss

Endangered species cannot speak for themselves. Once their habitat is gone, it is gone forever — offsets on paper are no substitute for real trees, real soil, and real ecosystems.

Risks:

- Permanent destruction of Box-Gum Woodland and Pale Pomaderris habitat.
- Failure to deliver or secure biodiversity offset credits.
- Potential breach of federal EPBC Act requirements.
- Fragmentation of local ecosystems, threatening long-term recovery.

Requests:

1. All biodiversity offsets secured **upfront and local** before any disturbance occurs.
2. Independent biodiversity audit by government ecologists.
3. A pause on determination until EPBC referral and federal clearance are resolved.

6. Economic Need & Public Interest

No household would buy what it doesn't need. Why should the government approve a quarry when two existing sites already meet regional demand, now and in to the mid to long term future more than adequately? This is duplication at the community's expense.

Risks:

- Market oversupply undermining existing operators and jobs.
- Waste of public resources if demand is already met.
- Loss of community trust in government planning if profit is prioritised over need.
- Potential misuse of road infrastructure funds for unnecessary duplication.

Requests:

1. Treasury to conduct a regional market-need review.
2. Infrastructure NSW to confirm actual demand before approval.
3. Rejection of the proposal if duplication or oversupply is confirmed.

7. Climate & Legislative Obligations

We are all being asked to cut emissions and do our part. It is unjust for one project to be given a free pass when it risks undermining NSW's own climate targets.

Risks:

- Greenhouse gas emissions inconsistent with NSW Net Zero Act.
- Reputational damage and loss of public trust in government climate commitments.
- Long-term liability for government if projects approved now are non-compliant later.

Requests:

1. Independent carbon emissions accounting by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
2. Climate compatibility review against NSW Net Zero Act targets.
3. Automatic rejection of projects found inconsistent with statutory climate goals.

Final Statement

This proposal does not demonstrate safety, fairness, or necessity. It transfers costs and risks to residents while offering little genuine community benefit. I respectfully request that the Department **permanently refuse the Monaro Rock Quarry proposal.**

Kind regards,

Matthew Bennett

[REDACTED], Royalla NSW 2620

M: [REDACTED]