

**Position:** I object to the Monaro Rock Quarry proposal (SSD-27223807).

**Reason:** The quarry's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) fails to meet fundamental tests of safety, fairness, and necessity. It asks government and residents to shoulder unacceptable risks while a private company pursues profit.

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## Key Concerns and Community Impacts

- **Road Safety & Liability**

"As someone who drives this highway daily, I know its dangers. Adding hundreds of quarry trucks to an unsafe merge point is not just poor planning — it's an open invitation to tragedy."

**Risks:** Increased crash rates, legal liability disputes, and ratepayer-funded upgrades.

**Requests:** Independent government safety review, state-funded upgrades only, liability allocation in writing before determination.

- **Air Quality & Health**

"We cannot gamble our health on uncertain dust models. Breathing air is not optional; it is the foundation of life."

**Risks:** PM2.5 exceedances, heightened asthma and respiratory illness, health system costs.

**Requests:** EPA-led baseline studies, NSW Health review, enforceable monitoring with shutdown triggers.

- **Noise & Blasting**

"Our homes are where we seek peace and stability. If blasting shakes those foundations, no amount of compensation will repair the damage."

**Risks:** Structural damage, noise stress, breach of precautionary principle.

**Requests:** Independent peer review, government ombudsman, cumulative regional impact study.

- **Water Security**

"Water is too precious to be treated as an afterthought. Once it is lost or polluted, there is no going back."

**Risks:** Groundwater drawdown, private bore losses, underestimation of flood events.

**Requests:** Government-led studies, enforceable suspension thresholds, regional water security plan.

- **Biodiversity**

“Endangered species are not bargaining chips. Offsets that may never materialise are not a substitute for local loss.”

**Risks:** Irreversible habitat loss, non-delivery of credits, potential breach of EPBC Act.

**Requests:** Offsets secured upfront and local, biodiversity audit, pause until federal clearance.

- **Economic Need**

“No household would spend on what it doesn’t need. Government should apply the same common sense to quarries.”

**Risks:** Duplication of supply, waste of public resources, breach of public interest test.

**Requests:** Treasury market-need review, Infrastructure NSW demand confirmation, reject if duplication proven.

- **Climate Obligations**

“We are all being asked to do our part. Large projects must be held to the same standard, not given a free pass.”

**Risks:** Emissions inconsistent with NSW Net Zero Act, climate liability for government.

**Requests:** Independent emissions accounting, climate compatibility review, reject if non-aligned.

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## Conclusion

This project does not demonstrate clear necessity, fairness, or compliance with law. It shifts costs, damages health, risks lives, and undermines climate targets. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Department **refuse the Monaro Rock Quarry proposal**.

*A comprehensive objection with full detail is attached.*

Kind regards,

Matthew Bennett

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