

Jacob Michelsen B.V.Sc., B.Sc, Dip ECVS/ACVS

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Googong, 2620, NSW

To NSW Major Projects, Submission regarding the Monaro Rock Quarry,

My family and I have lived in the Googong/Royalla area since 2014. We were attracted by the rural location and largely unspoiled local environment. We frequently see wedge tailed eagles (as well as numerous other birds of prey) in addition to a large variety of endemic reptiles and mammals. The proposed Monaro Rock Quarry is a serious and direct threat to the critically endangered and supposedly protected Box Gum Grassy Woodland of this area.

There are already two existing quarries in the area, one in Jerrmabombera and the other in Willimasdale, both of which have large reserves of hard rock and, I believe, should be able to provide the needed aggregate to the area for many decades to come.

The approval of the proposed quarry will seriously affect the conservation values of the directly affected area as well as the surrounding forest and grass lands.

On a more personal level the quarry will affect the amenity of local residents through excessive heavy vehicle movements, with up to 500 per day causing both noise, dust and safety concerns. Given the high silica levels of the local rock, the dust will pose a significant health risk to local residents.

Finally the quarry will draw down on limited ground water resources which are already under pressure during dry times. In fact it appears that concerns about ground water availability led to the cancellation of the proposed cemetery on Old Cooma Rd recently. If a cemetery potentially benefiting thousands of local residents was not appropriate, then a quarry benefiting very few should be even less deserving of approval.

Dr Jacob Michelsen