

23 September 2025

Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure

Submission to the Proposal for Monaro Rock Quarry Project (SSD – 27223807)

Mates Drive Royalla

My family and I have resided in Royalla for almost forty years, our choice has been to live in an area that supports and promotes rural living.

It is disturbing that an area zoned for Environmental Conservation is being considered for an industrial re-development to include a quarry, concrete batching plant, asphalt processing plant and recycling facility.

We are alarmed at what is being proposed and given that we already have two quarries in the local area, we are in strong opposition to a third. The impacts of a third quarry in our local area is far reaching with traffic noise, dust, air quality, water quality, ground water quality, loss of bio-diversity and loss of rural amenity all being significant issues.

You would appreciate the amount of people impacted in the local community will be significant and these negative impacts that will be unnecessarily imposed on the local community for generations.

The purpose of this submission is to state my objection to the Development Application for the Quarry Project. The reasons for my objection is as noted below.

Economics

There is existing capacity within the four operating quarries within a 30km radius to service the region, the current quarries are not operating at capacity and a fifth quarry will only benefit the Applicant.

It is not appropriate to place community wellbeing and the loss of a rural environment in favour of an unnecessary industrial development that will have long lasting environmental and social implications for the local community. These impacts will be with the local community for generations.

The project offers nothing in return to local residents. The long-term negative impacts of traffic noise, dust, air quality, water quality, ground water quality, loss of bio-diversity, loss of rural amenity, health and wellbeing are borne entirely by the local community.

Biodiversity

The quarry will clear a significant area of box gum woodland and will threaten in excess of 300 species of flora and fauna. This alone will result in the permanent loss of critically endangered box gum grassy woodland.

Traffic

The proposal has the potential to introduce 500 truck movements per day six days per week between the hours of 5.00am to 6pm. This proposes a significant burden on our family and other local residents.

Any suggested mitigation measure will not lessen the significant impact that this will have on our continued enjoyment of living in a rural environment.

The current application proposes to introduce large volumes of truck movements onto the Monaro Highway. The impact on the local road network starting with the Monaro Highway is severe and will pose significant safety issues.

With the potential of 500 truck movements per day entering an already congested major arterial road this will further create safety issues.

Increased heavy-vehicle traffic raises the risk of accidents at an intersection which has limited visibility, and significantly reduced visibility during the winter months. The risk to safety of the road users is significant.

The alternative route that has been documented raises similar concerns.

Dust and Odour

The short and longer term issues associated with silica is widely known and published.

Air borne respirable silica dust poses a real health risk to residents and the wider community. Air borne dust and other contaminants from the proposed operation is likely to result in drinking water being contaminated.

The proposed scale of operation has now expanded from the initial proposal to include a concrete batching plant, concrete recycling and asphalt plant. The compounds used in facilities such as asphalt plants pose significant short and longer term risks due to the likely exposure to dangerous compounds used in the production.

Noise, Vibration and Blasting

The effects of blasting operations are widely known and understood.

Frequent blasting, heavy vehicle movement, and mechanical operations will greatly increase noise pollution.

This will disturb the peaceful nature of our community and will negatively affect residents' wellbeing, particularly during early mornings, evenings, and weekends.

With trucks movements and plant operations taking place 13 hours per day, Monday to Saturday, this detracts significantly from our current amenity of living in a rural setting.

Water

The heavy reliance on bore water is likely impact to reduce the availability of bore water to local residents.

Reliance on ground water drawdown is a major concern and will have a likely impact the local community. Standing water levels during the more recent drought were considerably reduced and the significant reliance on bore water for quarry operations will likely impact those who are reliant on groundwater drawdown. This impact could be further compounded as the quarry activities are reliant on water.

The water flows with the local catchment area is likely to be threatened and there is a potential for contamination. There is also the longer term impact of run-off to contaminate the catchment area.

Location Inappropriateness:

The proposal is not consistent Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Local Environmental Plan 2022. An industrial development in an Environmental Conservation Zone is not consistent with the key objectives of the zone.

The proposed access route onto Monaro Highway is not consistent with local planning controls with the visual amenity impacts being significant. Barriers proposed to screen are not part of the natural environment, rehabilitation of benched areas cannot be immediate it would take a generation for any rehabilitation screening to take and be effective.

The proposed access route will have a major impact on the visual amenity as the major approach route to the Nation's Capital.

Within a 10km radius the quarry in question has approximately 50,000 residents with a projected increase to 70,000 in the next ten years. The nominated site is not appropriate and should be deemed unsuitable for this type of operation. The proximity to residential areas, schools and the wider community are a significant concern.

The proposed project represents an industrial-scale development in a rural area that is ecologically sensitive, and has a growing in population. The negative impacts to the local community are far reaching and this further supports the argument that that the location is not appropriate.

The proposal presents unacceptable risks to health, flora, wildlife road safety, regional livelihoods and wellbeing.

Social

As previously stated my family and I have resided in the area for almost forty years, our choice is to live in an area that supports and promotes rural living. We did not make a choice to neighbour an industrial estate. The impacts of creating an industrial estate in an Environmental Conservation Zone is significant.

Like other residents we have chosen to live in this area to enjoy the benefits of living in a rural environment where there is minimal noise, diversity of wildlife and an environment which promotes many rural lifestyle opportunities. This quarry will have significant impacts on the environment, safety, health, wellbeing and rural amenity.

This project benefits a select few and destroying a large land area that is rich in biodiversity is irreversible. The project offers little in return to local residents and will permanently alter the landscape and will impact many.

I object to the proposal and request that the Department consider the local community and environmental preservation first.

David Colbertaldo