

To NSW State Planning,

RE: Monaro Rock Quarry Project, Application: SSD-27223807

To Whom it may concern,

As a **local resident living in very close proximity** (Monaro Station Road Royalla) to the proposed Monaro Rock quarry in Royalla, **I strongly object to this project**. The proposal raises serious concerns that will directly and severely affect the physical and mental health, safety, lifestyle, and wellbeing of my family and many others in the community, along with financial security (home values will reduce significantly if this development goes ahead). I have listed my concerns below:

1. Traffic and Heavy Vehicle Impacts – A Serious Threat to Safety and Amenity

The proposed quarry operation includes up to **200-500 heavy truck movements per day**, possibly more when return trips are factored in. This is one of the most alarming aspects of the project and will fundamentally alter the character, safety, and quality of our local roads and community life.

- **Road safety** will be drastically reduced. Our local roads are not designed to handle this volume or weight of industrial traffic. They are shared by school buses, cyclists, pedestrians, and local families. Children waiting for buses and cyclists riding for recreation, as well as walking or commuting will be placed at real risk. There are also many wildlife such as wallabies, kangaroos, wombats, echidnas that often venture onto the roads. With current traffic, these animals usually are able to cross safely – however with the huge increase in traffic, including heavy vehicles – there is likely to be a significant negative impact to local wildlife – with more deaths – also placing a huge burden on local community organisations such as WIRES to either remove or try and treat injured wildlife.
- **Noise and vibration** from heavy trucks—starting early (5am) and running for long hours—will make it nearly impossible to enjoy outdoor spaces, hold conversations, or even keep windows open.
- **Air pollution** from diesel trucks and dust stirred by vehicle movements poses a daily health risk, particularly to vulnerable people like children, the elderly, or those with respiratory issues, such as asthma.
- **Damage to roads and infrastructure straina** from continuous quarry truck traffic will fall back on taxpayers to repair and maintain. As well as increased requirement for the local council to maintain the roads, which is likely to see an increase in rates to deal with the additional financial burden. Previous quarry operations in the region

have already caused road degradation, which have not been repaired satisfactorily.

The community carries the burden, not the developer.

- For those of us living nearby, this isn't a minor inconvenience—it's a fundamental shift in what we can expect from our daily lives. What used to be quiet country roads will become a high-volume industrial route.

The Monaro Highway and nearby feeder roads (especially Monaro Station Road) are already under pressure. Introducing this volume of industrial traffic through Royalla is not just inconvenient—it's dangerous.

2. Physical and Mental Health Impacts

Living within such close range to the proposed quarry site—within 1–2 kilometres—I am extremely concerned about the health implications for myself, my family, and our neighbours.

- **Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS):** This fine dust, generated by rock crushing and blasting, is a proven health hazard and can cause **silicosis** and other irreversible lung conditions. Even low-level chronic exposure over time can be harmful. This can also seriously affect those with asthma and other respiratory conditions. Dust can travel well beyond the quarry boundary. I don't believe that the submission by Monaro Rock Quarry as adequately addressed the health implications from Silica – **the submission has made assumptions based on speculative operations – which does not adequately address the question of health risks as this is not real time data but more of what is expected – this is not good enough when dealing with human health and the serious implications and risks that come with inhaling Silica.**
- **Noise pollution** from constant machinery, truck movements, and scheduled blasting will not only disrupt sleep and daily routines—it will elevate stress, anxiety, and tension in what has always been a peaceful, rural community. The quarry will be running operations 6 days per week from 5am to 6pm – constant trucks and traffic and noise, which does not align with in the intended purpose of creating a rural residential settlement – where landowners are able to enjoy the benefits of rural living – peace, tranquility and quietness not to far from town. A commercial operation of this scale SHOULD NOT BE LOCATED IN A RURAL COMMUNITY – so close to residents.
- The **loss of amenity**—of quiet, of nature, of clean air—cannot be understated. It is well documented that environmental noise and pollution contribute to increased rates of depression, hypertension, and long-term stress-related illness. Many people (including myself) have invested in Royalla for the purpose of a rural setting and the benefits of living in such an environment to both physical and mental health.

- **Mental health** is already being affected. The stress of possibly living beside a loud, polluting, high-traffic quarry has caused sleeplessness, fear, and uncertainty for many in the community. We are being forced to live in a state of limbo, not knowing whether our peaceful lifestyle will be destroyed.

This quarry is not just a physical health hazard—it is a **mental and emotional burden** that residents should not be forced to carry.

Our homes are supposed to be places of safety and comfort, peace tranquility—not places where residents are forced to breathe in dust, brace for explosions, and endure the constant roar of industrial traffic.

3. Incompatible with a Rural Residential Community

Royalla is not an industrial area. It is a rural community built on values of peace, space, and environmental connection. Many families (including my own) have invested their lives and savings into creating a home here precisely for these reasons.

This quarry will destroy that way of life—not just for nearby homes, but for the wider Royalla and Tuggeranong Valley communities.

4. Lifestyle Loss – Tranquillity, Peace and Rural Amenity

We chose to live in Royalla for its **peace, natural beauty, and rural calm**. The sound of birds, the quiet evenings, the clean air, the ability to ride horses, walk the dog safely and the ability to enjoy the outdoors are not luxuries—they are part of our everyday lives.

- A large-scale quarry would **permanently destroy** that lifestyle. Blasting, truck noise, dust, and industrial activity will disrupt the **peaceful, semi-rural environment** that we moved here for.
- **Outdoor living**, gardening, walking, and even simple things like sitting outside will no longer be pleasant or safe if dust and noise become part of daily life.
- The stress and tension this causes undermines what rural communities like Royalla stand for.

A quarry this size doesn't just "co-exist" with rural living—it overtakes and overrides it.

5. Impact on Property Values

Introducing an industrial quarry into a quiet residential area will undoubtedly **devalue surrounding homes**. This is not speculation—it is a well-known effect supported by research and common sense.

- No one wants to buy a home next to a blasting site or on a truck route.
- Even the **perception** of health risks and disruption drives property prices down.
- This represents a **direct financial loss** to residents, including myself and my family—many of whom have invested everything into their homes and land. My husband and I have worked all our lives, making many sacrifices in order to be able to purchase land and build a house in Royalla – which we did 20 years ago – with the plan that this is for our retirement and ensuring that we set up our family for future when we passed on – they would be able to sell the property for a good market value to help them financially and to put them in a position to be able to self-fund their retirement. The quarry will take all of this away – and will place additional economic burden on government resources for years to come with financial pressures meaning more people will likely need to access government pensions in retirement.
- We will be left with properties that are less desirable, harder to sell, and worth far less—simply because of a decision made without our consent.

6. Cumulative Impacts and Lack of Justification

There are already multiple quarries operating in the region, many of which are under-utilised. It is hard to understand why another quarry is being proposed when existing sites have not yet met their approved capacities.

Adding another quarry piles more pressure on local roads, ecosystems, and communities. The **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** has not adequately addressed cumulative effects—on noise, traffic, or air quality.

In summary, the Monaro Rock quarry proposal is inappropriate for this location and should be rejected on the grounds of:

- Unacceptable and dangerous traffic increases
- Proven health risks from silica dust and noise
- Mental health and amenity loss for nearby residents
- Environmental degradation and impact on biodiversity
- Incompatibility with the rural residential character of Royalla
- Increased economic pressure on both local, state and federal governments
- Increased pressure on local hospitals and health system
- Loss of house values with no compensation

I urge the NSW Planning Department to **listen to the lived experience** and **real fears** of local residents. The long-term damage to health, safety, and community wellbeing far outweighs any commercial benefit.

I am very happy to discuss any of the points I have raised in this objection to the Monaro Rock Quarry proposal.

Elouise O'Toole – local resident

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