

## **Submission Opposing the Barina Quarry Development Application**

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Zoe Dougall. I am a mother of two children who have grown up immersed in the natural beauty of the Collector region. We moved here for the peace, quiet, and connection to the environment—a lifestyle that has shaped our values and daily life. Our children love exploring the bush, watching birds, and observing kangaroos and wallabies in their natural habitat. It is this deep appreciation for the land and its wildlife that compels me to oppose the Barina Quarry development application.

### **Groundwater Contamination**

The proposed quarry poses a serious threat to the region's groundwater systems. These aquifers are essential for domestic use, agriculture, and sustaining local ecosystems. The development risks:

- Fracturing aquifers through blasting and excavation.
- Introducing pollutants via chemical runoff and sediment infiltration.
- Failing to provide clear mitigation strategies, with vague and non-committal language throughout the application.

Groundwater contamination is not easily reversed. The long-term consequences for families, farms, and wildlife could be severe and irreversible.

### **Traffic Safety and Wildlife Impacts**

The proposal includes up to 134 truck movements per day, which will dramatically increase heavy vehicle traffic on already degraded roads. This raises serious safety concerns:

- Collector Road is in poor condition and not designed for such volumes of heavy traffic.
- Federal Highway ingress and egress points are already hazardous, especially for merging trucks on uphill gradients with limited visibility.
- Pedestrian and cyclist safety near community spaces like the wetland reserve will be compromised.

In addition to human safety, the increase in traffic will have devastating consequences for local wildlife:

- Kangaroos and wallabies are frequently seen along these roads, and already suffer high mortality rates due to vehicle collisions. Increased truck traffic will only worsen this.
- Birds and other fauna will be disturbed by noise, vibration, and habitat fragmentation.

- Dust and silica particles, carried by prevailing westerly winds, will degrade air quality and impact both human and animal health.

These impacts are not hypothetical—they are visible daily in the form of wildlife casualties littering our roads.

### **Disruption to Community and Environmental Initiatives**

The Bushrangers Reserve is a cherished community space, with plans underway to bring more residents and visitors into nature through educational and recreational activities. The quarry's operations will undermine these efforts by:

- Introducing industrial noise and dust into what should be a peaceful, restorative environment.
- Deterring wildlife, reducing the biodiversity that makes the reserve so valuable.
- Creating safety hazards for families and children accessing the area.

This development is incompatible with the community's vision for a sustainable and connected future.

### **Conclusion**

The Barina Quarry proposal threatens the very qualities that make Collector a special place to live and raise a family. It endangers our water, our roads, our wildlife, and our community spaces. The environmental cost is too high, and the benefits too limited and externally focused.

I urge the council and relevant authorities to reject this application and protect the wellbeing of our community and environment.

Thank you for accepting and considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Dougall

Canberra, ACT

Email: [REDACTED]