

Submission Against the Barina Quarry Development Application

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a 49-year-old husband and father of two, and I have lived in and around the Collector area for 42 years. I first purchased a home in Collector in 2002 and, in 2018, acquired a farm at 760 Lucky Pass Road, Currawang. We are currently completing the construction of our family home on this property, which lies approximately 1.5 km east of the proposed quarry site. Given the prevailing westerly winds, our farm is directly in line with any airborne pollution, including dust and noise, that may result from quarry operations.

Concerns Regarding the Development Application

Ambiguity and Lack of Commitment

The language used throughout the proposal is vague and non-committal. The phrasing by the applicant's consultants lacks clarity and conviction, suggesting either uncertainty about the scope of the application or a lack of authenticity. This undermines the integrity of the proposal and shows a concerning disregard for the community and other stakeholders.

Road Infrastructure and Safety

Transport for NSW Engagement

One of the NSW Government's four pillars of road safety is safe road infrastructure. There is no evidence that the proponent or council has engaged with Transport for NSW (TfNSW), which is a requirement for developments affecting state roads such as the Federal Highway. TfNSW must assess traffic safety, congestion, parking, and the efficiency of vehicle movements to and from the site.

Collector Road

Collector Road is in a dilapidated state and has not been included in Safe Roads NSW's AusRAP assessment. It must be re-engineered to:

1. Support an additional 134 trucks per day, each averaging 40 tonnes, without further degrading the road surface.
2. Ensure pedestrian and cyclist safety near the community wetland/green space adjacent to the road.

Federal Highway Safety

The Federal Highway has seen significant traffic growth since the quarry last operated over 20 years ago. The ingress points from Collector Road and Collector town are already hazardous. The northbound acceleration lane is only 200m long on an uphill gradient, which is inadequate for 40-tonne trucks to merge safely. This

creates a dangerous situation, especially with limited visibility due to road curvature and overtaking traffic. The proposed frequency of truck movements—one every five minutes—poses an unacceptable risk.

Environmental Impact

Flora and Fauna

Since acquiring our property, we have undertaken extensive ecological restoration, including:

- De-stocking and weed management
- Installing contours to prevent erosion
- Planting native tree lanes to support biodiversity

These efforts have led to a noticeable increase in native bees, insects, and birdlife. The quarry's operations—especially silica dust, heavy machinery, and blasting—threaten to undo this progress. Industrial noise and percussive blasts are known to cause chronic stress in birds, reduce reproductive success, and lead to population decline, particularly among native species not adapted to human disturbance.

In contrast, the proponent's property shows extensive clearing with no evidence of ecological restoration.

Silica and Dust Contamination

Our property sits at an elevation of approximately 700m and is directly downwind of the quarry site. Fine silica particles, which pose serious health risks, can travel long distances. Despite global recognition of the dangers of silica inhalation, the proposal lacks a viable and enforceable dust suppression strategy. Without stringent independent testing and oversight, this development places my family, neighbours, livestock, and local ecosystems at risk.

Conclusion

This proposal appears to be driven by external interests with no meaningful ties to our community. The quarry was previously deemed unviable, and its renewed viability seems to hinge on waste processing—raising further concerns about environmental integrity and transparency.

While there may be limited local employment opportunities, the overall impact of this development is overwhelmingly negative. It threatens our roads, our environment, and our community's wellbeing. I urge the council and relevant authorities to reject

the Barina Quarry development application and to prioritise the long-term health and safety of the Collector region.

Thank you for accepting and considering this submission.

**Yours sincerely,
Evan Dougall**

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