

Bluestone Hardrock Quarry Project – SSD-76210271

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally express my strong objection to the proposed Hardrock Quarry at Lot 5 Springvale Road, Elderslie. As a concerned resident, I have reviewed the proposal and identified several significant concerns regarding its adverse impacts on the neighbourhood.

Product Haulage

The high number of heavy truck movements Monday to Saturday on an already busy road under this proposal will impact the haul route as follows:

1. **Haul Route:** The proposed haul route will adversely affect the already strained road condition through potholes and loss of integrity to sub-structural layers of the roadbed through water incursion. Add in the proposed truck cycles the road will become totally compromised.
2. **Elderslie Bridge:** This bridge is signposted as a one-lane bridge, and in accordance with traffic laws, vehicles approaching from the south must give way to opposite traffic. This has and does cause angst with some drivers pushing the limit in a race to be first on the bridge. There have been instances where vehicles have met halfway across, resulting in friction between drivers. Overlay this with the proposed truck movements this arrangement would be untenable. In addition, peak-hour traffic and school bus movements add to an unsafe proposition.

The design geometry/alignment of the bridge with respect to the road requires large trucks to swing wide on approach (see *Figure 1*).



Figure 1 Elderslie Bridge Approach Southbound

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3. **Elderslie Road:** As evidenced in recent years, when the New England Highway has been blocked due to two fatal traffic incidents (e.g. Whittingham incident 2015 at the Intersection of Golden and New England Highways). Diversion was via Elderslie Road, resulting in a long backup of traffic. Overlaid at the time, Elderslie Bridge was under traffic light control during engineering work. The junction of Stanhope and Elderslie Road (see *Figure 2*) is controlled by opposing give-way signs. This may cause traffic to back up Elderslie Road heading south.



Figure 2 Stanhope and Elderslie Road Junction

Associated Concerns

This major development activity may impact as follows:

1. **Water Incursion:** I am concerned that any large-scale virgin growth removal during construction of the site and during rock extraction will promote erosion of nearby land during heavy rain periods. This may also lead to pollutants entering waterways.
2. **Wildlife:** The nearby Tangory Nature Reserve would be impacted by noise and pollutants on resident fauna.
3. **Noise:** The impacted area will suffer vehicle noise, annoying shift workers and residents alike. Residents who, in recent times, have built their homes in the subdivisions at the Branxton end of Elderslie Road will be severely impacted by the noise of trucks climbing the hill and the use of exhaust brakes descending.
4. **Neighbourhood Impact:** The tranquillity of the impacted area will become eroded by this activity through noise, pollution and safety issues. This includes negative growth in property investment.

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Conclusion

I appreciate your kind attention to my concerns with this development and trust the Planning Department will act in the best interest of our community. I have made no political donations in the past two years and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

BH NEAL



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