

Jaime Little
82 Moores Lane
Elderslie NSW 2335
Jaimelit14@gmail.com

General Manager
NSW Department of Planning

Objection to Development Application SSD-76210271 – Bluestone Hardrock Quarry Project, Springvale Road and Blind Creek Road, Elderslie

Dear General Manager

I wish to formally object to Development Application SSD-76210271 for the proposed Bluestone Hardrock Quarry Project at Springvale Road and Blind Creek Road, Elderslie.

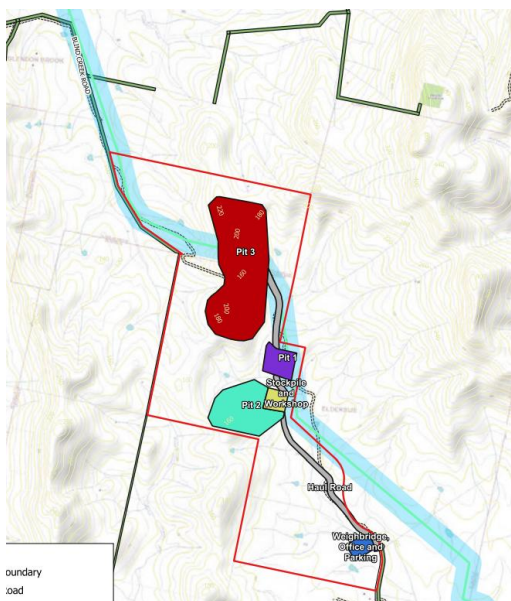
My family purchased our property in 2012 and have invested significant time and money into improving it. Since purchasing the property, we have renovated the existing dwelling and built a second home. Prior to moving to Elderslie, we lived at Allandale, approximately 4 kilometres from Newcastle Quarry Products, for over 30 years. Having experienced firsthand the impacts of quarry operations, we are well aware of the noise, vibration, dust, and traffic disturbances of that accompany these developments. Based on this experience, I have serious concerns about the impact this proposal will have on our property, our community, and residents living along the proposed haulage route.

My objections to this application are outlined below:

1. Blind Creek Road

Blind Creek Road passes directly through the area identified as Proposed Pit 3 and connects to Springvale Road, Elderslie. I have contacted Council seeking clarification regarding ownership and status of Blind Creek Road but have not yet received a response. It is my understanding that the applicant intends to excavate through this road as part of the quarry development, which raises significant concerns regarding emergency service access and road closure.

Before any approval is granted, the legal status of this road and the implications of its removal or disruption should be fully investigated and disclosed.



2. Noise Impacts

Our property is located just over one kilometre from the proposed quarry site. I am concerned about the unacceptable noise impacts associated with quarry operations, including:

- Heavy vehicle movements along the haul road
- Frequent use of engine brakes on steep sections of road
- Weekly blasting activities
- Noise from loading and unloading trucks
- Empty truck body impacts and associated industrial noise
- Machinery operation, extraction activities, and vegetation clearing

3. Blasting and Vibration Impacts

The proposal includes regular blasting activities. From my experience, repeated blasting will cause damage to buildings and create ongoing concern for residents.

The blasting vibration will effect:

- Affect nearby homes and structures
- Impact livestock and horse-riding activities in the district
- Disturb commercial poultry operations and other agricultural enterprises
- Reduce the amenity and enjoyment of rural properties

The Department should require independent assessment of cumulative vibration impacts on nearby residences and agricultural operations.

4. Dust and Air Quality

The Environmental Impact Statement appears to underestimate the extent to which dust will travel beyond the quarry boundary.

Properties in this area rely heavily on rainwater tanks, bores, dams and river water. Dust generated from extraction activities, stockpiles and heavy vehicle movements will:

- Contaminate roof catchments and water tanks
- Affect bore and surface water quality
- Impact agricultural production and livestock
- Create ongoing dust issues along the haul route and surrounding properties

Dust emissions should be assessed under realistic weather and drought conditions, including the cumulative impacts of truck movements

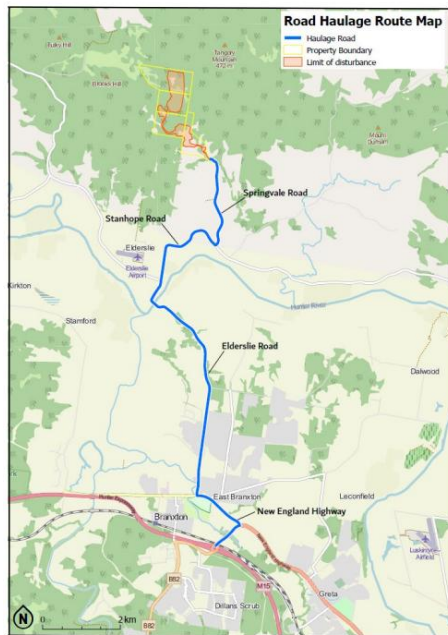
5. Traffic and Road Safety

The proposed increase in heavy vehicle traffic presents significant concerns regarding road safety and infrastructure impacts.

Heavy vehicle movements will:

- Accelerate deterioration of local roads
- Increase congestion, particularly near Elderslie Bridge
- Create safety risks for local residents, school buses, agricultural vehicles, horse riders and other road users
- Reduce the capacity and amenity of rural roads not designed for intensive quarry traffic

I am also concerned that Section 3.3.7 of the Environmental Impact Statement states that haulage vehicles will "generally" travel along the nominated haul route. The use of the word "generally" suggests there is no guarantee that trucks will remain on the designated route once they leave Springvale Road. This raises concerns regarding the distribution of heavy vehicle traffic throughout the wider local roads.



6. Water Resources

I have major concerns regarding the potential impacts on groundwater and surface water resources.

The proposal will:

- Interfere with natural groundwater systems
- Alter existing runoff patterns
- Reduce water availability to downstream properties
- Affect local agricultural enterprises that rely on water security

During drought periods, it is unclear where the quarry operator will source sufficient water for dust suppression and operational requirements without impacting local water users.

The diversion of runoff and excavation of the proposed quarry area may also reduce the natural replenishment of local dams and waterways relied upon by landholders

7. Elderslie Bridge

Elderslie Bridge is a single-lane bridge and has restrictions to only carry 50 tonne, with the proposal of the quarry to have 220 trucks a day with product movement (110 in and 110 out) this would only allow 1 truck at a time on the bridge roughly 22 an hour moving across the bridge and this will cause significant delays and raise safety concerns for all users of the bridge.

The proposed will:

- Increase delays and congestion
- Create safety concerns for road users
- Accelerate structural wear and deterioration of the bridge
- Result in increased maintenance costs for public infrastructure

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I strongly object to SSD-76210271. The proposal presents unacceptable risks to residential amenity, road safety, water resources, local infrastructure, agricultural activities and the rural character of the district.

I respectfully request that the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure carefully consider the concerns of local residents and undertake an on-site inspection of the roads and infrastructure proposed to be used by quarry traffic before making any determination on this application.

Regards

Jaime Little