

I object to the Bluestone Hard Rock Project due to the following.

1. I am concerned about Elderslie Bridge and the damage the increased truck traffic will cause. The bridge was not designed for the type of truck movements and loads that the quarry will generate. If the bridge is damaged or requires repairs it will be a major inconvenience to the local residents. If the quarry trucks cannot use the bridge and Elderslie Road then they will be using other rural roads not designed to cope with the constant heavy traffic loads and weights. This has not been satisfactorily addressed in the proposal in my opinion.
2. The haul road is noted as only using part of the Interchange on the Hunter Expressway at Branxton. There is no comment about the trucks using the link road and across to Wine Country Drive which will be the route if the trucks go towards Cessnock. There was a major bus crash at this round about and yet this has not been included in the proposal. If the trucks are going to a project towards Cessnock, such as the expanding town of North Rothbury, they will have to use the HEX interchange or use the residential streets of Branxton. Hundreds of trucks using the streets of Branxton is not acceptable and would be a major health and noise issue for the residents. Why was the entire roundabout not included in the traffic studies? Was it to avoid the requirement to use the bus crash in the report?
3. The additional noise created by the hundreds of trucks is an unacceptable impost to the residents living on the proposed haul route. Residents purchased in the area existing some traffic but not hundreds of trucks going to and from a quarry. The sound of the trucks will travel and be heard by many residents not on the proposed haul route as well. The quarry may not operate 24 hrs a day but trucks will arrive well before the proposed loading time. I am concerned that there will be trucks parked and idling along Elderslie Rd and anywhere else they can park. This traffic and noise are not acceptable.
4. I am concerned about the health impacts due to the increased diesel fuel emissions for the residents in the area. The health risks are known and it's not acceptable that residents will be forced to not use their outdoor areas to avoid exposure to the fumes. This is a rural area and residents have a right to be able to enjoy the outdoor lifestyle they have moved here for before the quarry was proposed.

Kind Regards

Rodney Adam