

To whom may listen,

My name is Matt Thrift, and I have lived in the Elderslie area for most of my life. I currently reside on Elderslie Road, only a short distance from the proposed Bluestone Hardrock Quarry site. I am the second son of Stewart Thrift, whose family has farmed at Elderslie for more than 120 years.

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Bluestone Hardrock Quarry at Elderslie.

As someone who lives on Elderslie Road and travels it every day for work, family commitments and community activities, I have serious concerns about the impacts this proposal will have on the safety, amenity and character of our community.

Increased Road Safety Risks

My greatest concern is the significant increase in heavy vehicle traffic proposed for Elderslie Road.

Elderslie Road is a narrow two-lane rural road that was never designed to accommodate the volume of heavy vehicles proposed. There are limited road shoulders, numerous blind crests, narrow sections and very little room for pedestrians, cyclists or vehicles to safely move aside when trucks are passing.

Every day local residents, school buses, school children, cyclists, farm machinery and ordinary motorists rely on this road. Introducing approximately 220 truck movements per day will substantially increase the likelihood of accidents and near misses.

As a daily road user, I already witness vehicles taking risks at busy times, particularly around the bridge and nearby intersections. Adding quarry trucks into an already challenging road environment is, in my opinion, an unacceptable safety risk.

Rusty Lane Intersection

I also share my family's concerns regarding the Rusty Lane intersection.

Vehicles travelling from Branxton and turning right into Rusty Lane have no dedicated turning lane, meaning following traffic must stop on Elderslie Road while waiting. Visibility when exiting Rusty Lane towards Branxton is also restricted by the crest of the hill.

With significantly more heavy vehicles travelling at the posted speed limit, these existing issues will only become more hazardous.

Access to Local Properties

Many residents already experience delays entering and exiting their properties due to traffic around the Elderslie Bridge.

My family's property is one example where access can already be difficult during busy periods. Drivers frequently fail to obey the give way arrangement at the bridge, creating congestion, frustration and dangerous situations.

Increasing heavy vehicle movements through this section of road will make these existing problems considerably worse and reduce safe access for local residents.

Elderslie Bridge

The Elderslie Bridge is over 120 years old and is an important piece of local infrastructure.

While I understand assessments may have concluded the bridge is structurally capable of carrying quarry traffic, I question whether long-term fatigue caused by repeated daily heavy vehicle loading has been fully assessed over the expected life of the quarry.

Given the bridge's age and importance to the community, I believe this issue deserves detailed independent consideration.

Road Condition

Elderslie Road already requires regular maintenance following periods of wet weather.

Heavy quarry traffic will inevitably accelerate deterioration of the road surface, increasing maintenance costs and creating further safety hazards for all road users.

Noise and Loss of Amenity

One of the reasons my family has chosen to live in Elderslie is the peaceful rural environment.

The constant movement of loaded and unloaded quarry trucks, engine braking, engine noise while climbing hills and general traffic activity will permanently change the character of our community.

This proposal represents a significant loss of residential amenity for those of us who live along Elderslie Road.

Environmental Impacts

Although my property may not experience the full environmental impacts of the quarry itself, many neighbouring residents will.

Noise from blasting and machinery, dust, vibration, potential impacts on local waterways and effects on native vegetation and wildlife are all matters that must be carefully considered before any approval is granted.

I remain unconvinced that these impacts can be adequately managed over the life of the quarry.

Traffic at Major Intersections

The intersections of Elderslie Road with the New England Highway and the Hunter Expressway Link Road already experience significant congestion during peak periods.

The addition of hundreds of daily truck movements will inevitably increase delays, reduce traffic efficiency and create further safety concerns for all motorists.

Is the Quarry Necessary?

One question I believe remains unanswered is whether this quarry is genuinely required.

As this proposal has been declared a State Significant Development, I believe the community deserves clear and transparent information demonstrating the need for the project.

This should include:

- Current and forecast demand for bluestone products.
- Existing production capacity within the region.

- Planned expansions of existing quarries.
- Alternative supply options that have been considered.
- Why this particular location has been chosen despite the significant impacts on the local community.

Without this information, it is difficult for the public to understand why such substantial impacts on local residents are justified.

In Summary

I respectfully ask that the concerns of residents who live and travel on Elderslie Road every day be given genuine consideration.

The increased heavy vehicle traffic presents what I believe to be unacceptable risks to public safety, particularly for local families, school children and other regular road users.

This proposal would permanently alter the character of our community and significantly reduce the safety and amenity of those who call Elderslie home.

For these reasons, I respectfully object to the proposed Bluestone Hardrock Quarry and request that it not be approved unless it can be clearly demonstrated that these significant impacts can be avoided.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Thrift
429 Elderslie Road
Branxton NSW 2335