

To whom may listen,

My name is **Madeline Thrift**, and I have lived with my husband, Matt Thrift, at **429 Elderslie Road, Branxton**, for the past six years.

Before moving to Elderslie, I lived in a much busier urban area. One of the main reasons we chose to make our home here was to enjoy the quieter rural lifestyle, the strong sense of community, and the opportunity to raise our future family in a peaceful and safe environment, away from the congestion and pace of city living.

Over the past six years, Elderslie has become home. We have established our lives here and are planning to start a family in the near future. It is because of that future that I feel compelled to object to the proposed Bluestone Hardrock Quarry at Elderslie.

While I appreciate the importance of supporting industry and infrastructure, I do not believe this proposal has adequately considered the long-term impacts it will have on the families who already call this area home.

Safety of Our Family

One of my greatest concerns is the significant increase in heavy vehicle traffic on Elderslie Road.

As my husband and I prepare to start a family, I think about what daily life will look like raising children in our home on Elderslie Road.

The reality is that **Elderslie Road is already not a safe road to walk along with a pram or for children to ride bicycles**. The road is narrow, has little to no sealed shoulder in many places, limited space for pedestrians and cyclists, and sections with poor visibility. Traffic already travels at high speeds, and there is very little separation between passing vehicles and anyone outside of a car.

The proposed increase of approximately 220 heavy truck movements each day will only make an already unsafe situation worse.

As parents, we should be looking forward to taking our children for walks around our neighbourhood or teaching them to ride a bike close to home. Instead, this proposal would make us even more reluctant to do so because of the increased dangers associated with heavy vehicle traffic.

I do not believe families should have to accept a further reduction in safety and live with the knowledge that the road outside their home has become even more hazardous than it already is.

Living Only 30 Metres from Elderslie Road

Our home is situated only around 30 metres from Elderslie Road.

Even with the current traffic, we regularly hear trucks travelling past our property. Engine braking, heavy acceleration and general traffic noise already form part of our daily lives.

An additional 220 truck movements every day would significantly increase noise levels from early morning until late afternoon. This would fundamentally change the peaceful rural lifestyle that attracted us to live here.

A home should be a place where you can enjoy your backyard, open your windows, entertain family and friends, and eventually allow your children to play outside without constant heavy vehicle noise dominating the environment.

Health and Wellbeing

As someone hoping to raise children in Elderslie, I am also concerned about the cumulative impacts of increased dust, diesel emissions and noise associated with quarry operations and heavy vehicle movements.

Children spend more time outdoors and are more vulnerable to environmental impacts than adults. I believe these health considerations deserve careful attention before any approval is granted.

The long-term wellbeing of local families should be given at least the same level of importance as the economic benefits of the project.

Loss of Residential Amenity

My husband and I deliberately chose to make our home in Elderslie because of its peaceful rural character, strong sense of community and safe family environment.

The proposed quarry would permanently change that environment.

Constant heavy vehicle traffic, industrial activity, blasting, dust and increased congestion are not compatible with the lifestyle existing residents invested in when choosing to live here.

The amenity of our home would be significantly diminished through no fault of our own.

Property Value

Although we have no intention of selling our home in the foreseeable future, it represents one of the largest financial investments we will ever make.

It is difficult to ignore the likelihood that living only metres from a road carrying hundreds of additional quarry truck movements each day could negatively affect the value and desirability of our property.

Community Impacts

This proposal does not affect only individual households.

It affects every family who uses Elderslie Road, every child catching a school bus, every cyclist, every farmer moving machinery, every resident travelling to work and every emergency vehicle responding to the area.

The cumulative impact on our community cannot be measured simply by traffic numbers or engineering reports. It is about how people will live every day for decades if this project proceeds.

Is This Quarry Truly Necessary?

I also believe the community deserves a clear explanation as to why this project is needed.

If this development is considered to be of State significance, then residents should have access to evidence demonstrating:

- the current and future demand for the quarry products;
- why existing quarry capacity cannot meet that demand;
- whether alternative locations have been properly assessed; and
- why the impacts on existing communities are considered acceptable.

Without this information, it is difficult to understand why local families are expected to bear such significant impacts.

In Closing

My husband and I hope to spend many years raising our future family in Elderslie.

We chose this community because it offered a safe, peaceful and rural environment in which to build our lives. The proposed Bluestone Hardrock Quarry threatens to fundamentally change that environment.

I respectfully ask that the safety, health and wellbeing of existing residents—and future generations who will grow up here—be given the highest priority when considering this proposal.

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

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Madeline Thrift

429 Elderslie Road
Branxton NSW 2335