

I wish to register my objection to the project by Monaro Rock Pty Ltd to establish the Monaro Rock Quarry in Royalla – SSD-27223807 (the ‘project’).

Like many Royalla residents, my family and I will be directly and negatively impacted by the proposed establishment of the quarry.

I have informed myself of the details of the project by accessing the project’s website and documentation including the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), attending a community briefing provided by the project consultant’s Corkery and speaking with other concerned Royalla residents.

My objection to the project is based on concerns about the unmitigated and/or inadequate measures to address the very real and detrimental health and safety, environmental, personal wellbeing, economic and community impacts resulting from the establishment of the Monaro Rock Quarry in Royalla. I also object on the grounds it is not appropriate to establish a quarry in an existing residential area.

Pollution and Air Quality – Silica dust and other particulate matter

The project plans to crush up to 20,000 tonnes of concrete and produce up to 150,000 tonnes of asphalt on site. This will create silica dust and other particulate matter. The project lists some proposed mitigations and dust suppression measures however these are similar to the conditions at existing sites such as the Williamsdale quarry where dust blows across Royalla and into people’s homes and properties.

I live within 4 km of the proposed new quarry and am concerned about the health and safety risks and air quality impact from dust and other particles created during blasting, asphalt production and concrete recycling activities planned for this site. I am also concerned about the odour from asphalt production given the proximity of the proposed quarry to my home and other residential properties.

Royalla is typically very windy day and night. Silica dust and other particulate matter from the proposed new quarry will come across in the air and into my home, falling on my roof, washing into my water tank which we use for drinking water and for cooking and household cleaning. The toxic dust is not only a risk to our health but will create an additional expense in terms of needing to replace the water filters on freshwater tanks.

At the June 2025 community meeting the project’s consultants Corkery acknowledged there will be dust generated from the proposed quarry and noted there is a risk of silicosis but stated it is “*very rare*”. The consultant also noted “*most winds are from the northwest*” and coming “*from Canberra over the site to Royalla*” i.e. into my suburb and residence. Further, the EIS acknowledges the residual impact of “*dust generation and dispersion from quarry operations, exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS)*” is “*Medium*” (very unlikely but with major impact). This health risk is unacceptable.

Traffic and Road Safety

The proposed hours of operation for the quarry are 7am – 6pm Mon to Sat with extended hours during construction of the quarry i.e. from 5am. There will be around 200 laden trucks per day and up to 25 trucks per hour entering the Monaro Highway at the crest of the hill at Royalla.

Objection to Monaro Rock Quarry in Royalla | Application # SSD-27223807

The Monaro Highway is already a busy single lane highway with a 100km/h speed limit. Peak periods are 6.30am to 9am and 4.30pm to 6.30pm. Traffic increases significantly during winter months and school holidays. The planned increase and type of vehicles using the Monaro Highway has a significant impact on road safety, traffic congestion and commute time. An increase in the number of heavy vehicles on the road and particularly those seeking to merge onto the highway through all the traffic increases the risk of injury and/or vehicle damage. The EIS notes likelihood of *“increased heavy vehicles on Monaro Highway heightening safety concerns”* as possible and noted the residual impact as *“Medium”*. The EIS relies on mitigation such as *“Driver’s Code of Conduct, Transport Management Plan, driver education, control of numbers...”*

There have been many serious motor vehicle collisions in recent years on the Monaro Highway and surrounding areas including a fatality when a car collided with a truck near the proposed quarry access road.

Road users like me are regularly impacted during our daily commute as the road is regularly in disrepair with large potholes causing damage to our vehicles. Additionally, we face disruption from the frequent roadworks to fill the potholes and patch the road surface. On several occasions my car has been struck by stones and debris coming from large trucks driving on the Monaro Highway. The risk of this happening will increase with the introduction of trucks coming from the proposed Royalla Quarry.

The increased traffic safety and disruption risks are unacceptable.

Groundwater

The EIS notes *“residents relying on natural waters sources may be disproportionately impacted if operations affect water quality or availability.”*

Project consultants Corkery advised the quarry will *“have a high reliability of water for dust suppression”* and expects to pump water 24/7. Corkery agreed there would be an impact for residents south of the project and acknowledged there would be difficulty sourcing water, noting feedback from residents that dams are not reliable in dry periods or drought. I understand the project will seek to access two private bores from nearby properties and potentially compensate these Royalla neighbours. Corkery said the project *“will develop our own bores to the north if needed”*.

Since moving to Royalla over eleven years ago, I have noticed a significant decrease in the groundwater table levels and already have difficulty accessing water via the bore on my property. The decrease is due to new developments throughout Googong, Burra and Royalla accessing the groundwater. I am concerned the quarry’s use of the available groundwater will cause my bore to run dry, impacting my ability to provide water for care of my animals, gardens and to provide fire protection.

Noise and vibrations

I am concerned about the impact the predicted noise levels from the proposed quarry will have on me, my family and animals. Noise travels in the valley where I live. I expect there to be an increase in noise coming from the blasting at the proposed quarry as well as increased noise from trucks on the local roads using air brakes, rumbling wheels etc. Not only will the noise impact on residents but it can scare and cause injury to livestock, horses and pets.

Objection to Monaro Rock Quarry in Royalla | Application # SSD-27223807

I am also concerned about the vibrations coming from blasting. A Royalla resident who previously lived in south Royalla near the existing Williamsdale quarry said the vibrations and shocks coming from quarry blasting caused picture frames to be shook from the walls in their home.

The project consultants Corkery acknowledged there would be noise to the south of the quarry and this could be considered “*intrusive*” during the construction of the roads for at least two months. They also acknowledged during the proposed quarry operations residents south of the project (like me) might hear “*distant rumbling*”. When a fellow resident asked about the impact on stock, horses, pets etc. the consultant said it would not be “*frequent enough to be an issue*”. This response is not satisfactory.

The EIS describes the impact to people as “*noise from quarry operations intruding on peaceful lifestyle*”; likelihood as “*Likely*” with residual impact significance as “*Medium*”. The introduction of noisy operations and vibrations to an existing quiet semi-rural residential area is unacceptable.

Environmental

The proposed quarry will allow runoff into the Tuggeranong Creek. There is a real risk of the quarry surface water polluting the Tuggeranong Creek and surrounding areas.

The proposed quarry is in an area with threatened fauna and flora. I am concerned that while there may be some mitigation activity to address the risk to native animals and landscape, the project has no plans at this stage to plant new trees at the site. The project plans only to plant shrubs to minimise visual and acoustic impacts. This is a clear lack of foresight as the proposed quarry would have a 30+ year live span.

Personal wellbeing

I moved to Royalla for the lifestyle, to live in a quiet and peaceful area surrounded by wildlife and natural landscape. I am concerned the proposed new Royalla Quarry will not only affect my health but also my wellbeing (noise, dust, traffic congestion and hazards etc.) and lifestyle. Further I expect to be disadvantaged due to a decrease in the value of my home given its proximity to the proposed new quarry. At one of the community presentations, the project consultant Corkery noted resident’s concerns about the impact and acknowledged there was “*a very real risk*” to property values.

There are two other existing quarries close to Royalla, at Williamsdale and Queanbeyan creating a cumulative impact for myself and other Royalla residents with increased health and safety and environmental risks and a crossover of operating hours, increased traffic and noise etc. on and around the Monaro Highway and Old Cooma Road. Should the proposed Royalla Quarry be approved we are boxed in and impacted from all directions.

I am strongly opposed to the establishment of a new quarry in Royalla.