



STEVE WHAN MP

MEMBER FOR MONARO

To whom it may concern

Re. SSD-27223807 Monaro Rock Quarry Project

I am making a submission based on the concerns provided to me constituents living nearby the proposed development. In my role as NSW Member for Monaro, I have been informed about the quarry proposal by the proponents, and I have had correspondence from the residents.

I acknowledge the importance of having quarries in the region which cater for the demands for material for building projects.

My concern about this proposal is around the impact of heavy vehicles, traffic volume and proximity of quarry operations to a relatively dense rural residential area.

Heavy Vehicle traffic

I note that the proponents indicate that heavy vehicle traffic entering and exiting the quarry would do so using a new intersection with the Monaro Highway in the ACT. I expect that intersection will require planning approval from the ACT Government.

While this is the responsibility of the ACT Government, I have concerns about a high volume of heavy vehicles turning out of the proposed intersection onto a road which is already busy and during winter, in particular, has very high volumes of traffic.

In that sense the number of truck movements indicated by the proponents appears very high and I would be concerned about the safety of the intersection.

I also seriously question the traffic counts undertaken in 2021 as indicated on table 2.2. The period covered by the counts does not cover a normal ski season, a normal ski season from June to September results in a massive increase in traffic along the Monaro Highway. Table 2.2 appears to indicate a period prior to the ski season but also very importantly, a year impacted by COVID lock downs.

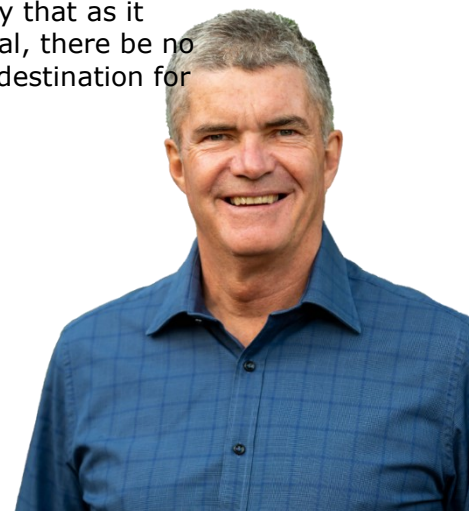
My main local concern for my constituents is the Old Cooma Road. Currently the proposal does not envisage heavy vehicle traffic on old Cooma Road. This must be not-negotiable.

If the proposal were to be approved (and I would be concerned by that as it stands) then it must include clear conditions that, once operational, there be no quarry related heavy vehicle use of Old Cooma Road (unless the destination for the product can only be accessed from the road).

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This is an important condition for two reasons, first because Old Cooma Road is not suitable for that volume of heavy vehicle traffic overall but also in case the ACT

Government rejects the option of the intersection on the Monaro Highway. Old Cooma Road cannot be the 'backup' option for access.

I would also like to see consideration of the crossing point for the railway line. Currently the railway line is not used, but there is a very strong proposal to turn the line into a rail trail, accessible for cyclists and pedestrians. Any approval must consider the future safe interaction between any possible quarry traffic and the users of the rail trail.

Quarry Operations, Noise, Vibration and Dust for local residents

I have an overall concern about the proximity of this proposal to a reasonably dense rural residential area at Royalla. I note that there remain a number of rural residential properties subdivided but yet to be built on coming off the Monaro Station Road. These residential dwellings existing and proposed along that road in in very close proximity to the proposed quarry.

I did look at the noise assessment submitted as part of the planning proposal. I have no expertise in this area and I found it difficult with this report to get a practical idea of what level of additional noise there will be for residents very nearby.

I find it hard to believe that the noise level won't be intrusive for those residents.

I do know that quarry noise from other operations in our region is able to be heard at least two kilometres away from the site, in that case the noise is not all that intrusive, but residents in Royalla are much closer to this proposed site.

Local residents have also expressed concern about vibration and dust from quarry operations.

Environment and heritage

I remain concerned about the environmental impact on endangered woodland on the project site and impacts on indigenous heritage. Again this is an issue that the community around Royalla has strongly raised and I support their concerns.

Overall, I do not support the approval of the project, however if the project is approved it must include conditions which address the issues.

As a note on disclosure of donations, I do not believe I have made any political donations which require disclosure as outlined in the submission process, however for complete transparency over the last two years I have donated to the Queanbeyan Palerang Council Labor team for the last council election; to the Federal Labor Member for Eden Monaro (the Hon Kristy McBain MP) and expended my own money on my own campaigning.

Yours Sincerely



Steve Whan – Member for Monaro