



United for Nature

Molonglo Conservation Group

12 River Street, Oaks Estate

ACT 2620

Mobile: 0427 803 896

Email: [president@molonglo.org.au](mailto:president@molonglo.org.au)

Web: [www.molonglo.org.au](http://www.molonglo.org.au)

Monaro Rock Quarry Project[Address]

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/monaro-rock-quarry-project>

17 September 2025

## RE: MONARO ROCK QUARRY PROJECT SUBMISSION (SUB-94325206)

The Molonglo Conservation Group (MCG) objects to the proposed Monaro Rock Quarry Project on the grounds that the project will adversely impact the connectivity for woodland and grassland species and the condition waterways and riparian vegetation of the Jerrabomberra headwaters in the Royalla landscape.

### Concerns

MCG's primary concern is that the "... *the subject land supports 218.11 ha of high quality BC Act Box-Gum Woodland, ... of which ... the proposed development would directly impact 22.44 ha.*" (Capital Ecology (2025) Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) pg 72) through the removal of native vegetation and habitat. According to the Monaro Rock EIS Community Summary August 2025 the residual result of the project is:

- Approximately 77.83 ha of native vegetation would be cleared, including 22.44 ha of Box-Gum Woodland listed as critically endangered under both NSW and Commonwealth legislation.
- Habitat for threatened flora and fauna—including Pink-tailed Legless Lizard, Key Matchstick grasshopper, Small Purple-pea, and Gang-Gang Cockatoo—would be directly and indirectly impacted.

This is apart from indirect impacts on neighbouring Melrose Nature reserve & Rob Roy Reserve from the blasting quarry, industrial estate including quarry, rock crushing, concrete recycling, hot asphalt manufacture being all concentrated on-site at Enchanted Hill.

### Recommendations

We recommend incorporating the following relevant strategies into the project to mitigate adverse impacts:

1. MCS 2015-2030 p 90

*"The overarching goal for the Jerrabomberra Creek landscape [in the Royalla region] is to **increase connectivity for woodland and grassland species**; with a secondary goal of **improving riparian vegetation**. This is building on past native vegetation planting at ... Royalla ... by Landcare members. There are also important cultural links within this*

*landscape – both from a history of indigenous pathways and cultural sites along the Jerrabomberra valley/ hills and peaks; and from early European settlement which often utilised these existing pathways. ...*

MCG ... *“is continuing its strong history of engagement with the ‘Early adopters’ along the Jerrabomberra sub-catchment with multiple projects partnering with Landcare groups to undertake revegetation projects and protection of existing significant habitat patches. **These projects are critical to re-establishing habitat connectivity across the sub-catchment, but on their own will not be enough to achieve our goals.** There is also a pressing need to expand the number of people in this category as those who are currently contributing are aging and feel over committed.*

#### **In addition:**

The EIS summary p 37 states that Mitigation measures for surface water resources include the following.

- *Construction of clean and dirty water dams, diversion drains, and sediment basins.*
- *Use of flocculants and water quality testing prior to discharge.*
- *Implementation of a Water Management Plan and monitoring of water quality and infrastructure.*

It is MCG's experience that standard mitigation measures such as those listed above are insufficient to handle the extreme weather events in the local region that have been impacting large scale developments during their construction stages and even after completion of the project in the recent decade. Googong Township is a prime example. Lessons must be learned from the experiences of Googong Township and improved mitigation to handle extreme conditions must be put in place to protect the headwaters of the Jerrabomberra Creek to avoid adversely impacting immediate landscapes and those further downstream.

#### **Background:**

MCG has engaged with the Royalla landscape and its community since 2003 when the Group formed with the principal objective of developing the Molonglo Catchment Strategy. MCG now works to implement this strategy, currently supporting 29 Landcare and Park care groups, of which Royalla Landcare is one. Our activities cover urban, peri-urban, rural and conservation landscapes in and surrounding the Molonglo catchment.

Reviewed in 2015, the Molonglo Catchment Strategy (MCS 2015 -2030) document acts as a technical reference with which to guide our programs for the catchment region. The aim of MCS 2015-2030 is to adopt a more holistic understanding of how social, cultural and environmental resources work together in a landscape and how we can influence that landscape for better or for worse.

Coordination of member group projects initially drove the work on catchment management of MCG. Now the Group's approach has evolved into management of landscape-scale ecological/biodiversity corridors and sustainable rural landscapes. In the interests of influencing behavioural change in the wider community, across the Southern Tablelands region, MCG is coordinating on-ground projects including revegetation (incorporating traditional cool burns), erosion control, weed control, vegetation monitoring, water quality and hydrogeology and catchment management. All our projects encourage stewardship through education, community engagement activities and/or extension work. Our Website documents the work of the Group over the past five years ([www.molonglo.org.au](http://www.molonglo.org.au)).

MCG exists to strengthen the health of communities and ecosystems for mutual benefit. Through our work we build a more harmonious and helpful relationship between people and nature, for everyone's future. We engage communities and collaborate with government and other organisations to raise awareness and implement practical initiatives with positive environmental outcomes.

We welcome further engagement in this project as it progresses through the approval process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Williams', followed by a horizontal line.

Karen Williams

President