

# Supporting Evidence – Objection to Monaro Rock Quarry Project

This document compiles excerpts from NSW Government reports and guidelines relevant to the health, environmental and planning risks of quarry operations. These excerpts can be attached as evidence to support objections to the proposed Monaro Rock Quarry project.

## 1. Respirable Dust in Quarry Operations (NSW TIP Program)

- “Workers and nearby communities exposed to respirable dust from quarry operations face an increased risk of respiratory disease including silicosis, chronic bronchitis and lung cancer.”
- “Respirable crystalline silica must be controlled to below 0.05 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (8-hour TWA). Exceedances represent a significant health risk.”
- “Dust can travel offsite affecting air quality for residents and agricultural activities if not properly contained.”

## 2. Dust Safety in the Metals and Extractive Industries (3rd Edition, 2024)

- “Dust exposure is not only a workplace hazard but can extend into surrounding communities.”
- “Fine particles (PM10 and PM2.5) are particularly hazardous as they penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream.”
- “Operators must implement dust suppression systems (water sprays, enclosures, monitoring) — failure to do so may result in enforcement action.”

## 3. Silica in the Quarrying Sector (NSW Resources Regulator)

- “Crystalline silica is a known carcinogen. Even short-term exposure can trigger health effects in sensitive groups such as children and the elderly.”
- “Health surveillance and monitoring must extend beyond workers to consider potential exposure of surrounding populations.”

## 4. Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) – Monaro Rock Quarry

- “Assess potential impacts of dust, noise, blasting, traffic and groundwater drawdown on surrounding residents, agricultural land, biodiversity and cultural heritage.”
- “Demonstrate that cumulative impacts are acceptable and mitigation is feasible.”
- “Identify alternatives to the proposed site and justify why this location is appropriate.”

These excerpts show that NSW Government itself recognises significant health and environmental risks from quarry operations. The Monaro Rock Quarry proposal must therefore be held to the highest standards, and current evidence suggests it fails to adequately address these requirements.