

MARK PARTON MLA

Liberal Member for Brindabella



Carl Dumpleton
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Dear Carl,

Proposed Monaro Rock Quarry – Constituent Submissions

I hope this correspondence finds you well.

My name is Mark Parton MLA, and I am a Liberal Member for Brindabella in the ACT Legislative Assembly. My electorate covers the most southern part of the Territory, including the suburbs of Theodore, Condor, Richardson, and Isabella Plains.

Over the last month, my office has heard the concerns of numerous constituents around the proposed development of the Monaro Rock Quarry project in Royalla. Although the site is in NSW, many of my constituents fear the negative impacts of development on residents living in the southern parts of the ACT. Their concerns are attached.

If you have any further concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me using the details below.

Yours sincerely

Mark Parton MLA

23 Sep 2025

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ACT Legislative Assembly Member for Brindabella

Proposed Monaro Rock Quarry – Constituent Concerns

Constituent A, Conder, concerns raised 06/09/2025 – Royalla Quarry opposition re concerns

There could be a number of risks from the quarry including health-related which could impact the people of Lanyon.

As a Lanyon resident it's concerning to me.

Fine dust emissions is a risk of harm.

Dust has travelled in the air here when we've had the interstate storms from NSW and VIC.

We're not close to the rubbish tip in Conder but can smell rubbish here some days.

So I feel there is a genuine risk of harm due to the location of the quarry in such close proximity to South Canberra.

We need to protect our air quality and waterways and environment etc, it be too late once the damage has been done.

Kind regards

Constituent B, Theodore, concerns raised 09/09/2025 – Proposed Royalla quarry – impacts to Brindabella residents and ecosystem

I recognise that it's outside of the ACT's jurisdiction, however the impacts to residents in Theodore, Calwell, Richardson and Chisholm (at a minimum) warrants concern and (I hope) unified opposition.

The main concerns for ACT residents are from particulates (including silica) and from groundwater run-off which feeds into Tuggeranong creek. Given the current efforts to improve waterways in Tuggeranong, Tuggeranong lake, and into the Murrumbidgee catchment, increased particulate and other waste entering upstream will undermine the downstream improvements.

I don't know if you have other mechanisms for registering your concerns with this proposed quarry but as a Theodore resident who will be impacted by this.

Thank you in advance

Constituent C, concerns raised 10/09/2025 – Monaro Rock Quarry Project

I am writing as a concerned Tuggeranong resident about the proposed quarry at Royalla and the potential risk to Tuggeranong residents from silica dust exposure. Wind maps have been drawn up showing that south Tuggeranong would be impacted by silica dust depending on wind direction. There would also be hundreds of additional semi trailers on the Monaro highway each day amongst a range of other concerns.

I have family in Royalla but this quarry will not only affect Royalla residents directly but also Tuggeranong and Googong.

There has been an action group set up to oppose the quarry but I'm not sure how successful they will be. I have attached a few pictures that show details of what the impact will be and where to oppose this project.

Constituent D, Calwell, concerns raised 12/09/2025 – **Objection to Proposed Royalla Quarry, Asphalt Plant & Concrete Recycling Facility**

I am a resident of Calwell. I am writing to formally object to the proposed quarry, asphalt plant, and concrete recycling facility in Royalla.

This development poses serious risks to the health, safety, and environment of residents across Tuggeranong and surrounding regions. The public submission period is unreasonably short, and there has been little opportunity for genuine community input.

MY OBJECTIONS:

AIR QUALITY & HEALTH RISKS

This project will release ultrafine dust, silica particles, and other known carcinogens. Tuggeranong already faces elevated asthma and respiratory illness rates from winter woodfire smoke and bushfire seasons. Adding quarry emissions will worsen community health, especially for children, the elderly, and vulnerable groups.

WATER SECURITY & GROUNDWATER

Runoff and groundwater disruption from the quarry risk long-term contamination of Canberra's drinking water catchment. With declining rainfall, lower soil moisture, and increased drought stress, we cannot afford this additional pressure on water security.

TRAFFIC & ROAD SAFETY

The Monaro Highway is already unsafe and congested. Adding high-volume quarry trucks will increase accidents, road wear, and travel delays for residents who rely on this arterial route daily.

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE & BUSHFIRE RISKS

Clearing bushland and operating heavy industrial machinery will threaten wildlife habitats and increase ignition risks in an already fire-prone area. The ecosystem disruption will be long-lasting and irreversible.

LIMITED COMMUNITY BENEFIT

The proposed 30 jobs and access to additional rock do not justify the massive health, safety, and environmental costs. The primary financial benefit goes to the quarry operators, not to our community.

PROXIMITY TO HOMES & SCHOOLS

The site is less than 6km from Conder, Banks, and Gordon, and under 3km from Theodore. This project directly threatens families, schools, and aged care facilities in the region.

HOUSE VALUES

Tuggeranong is often left forgotten when it comes to funding and this project will leave residents further behind as the health risks will mean a reduction in house value as no sound minded person would want to live here and put their families at risk.

This decision will affect the health, safety, and environment of our community for decades to come. For this project to go ahead it is an ultimate failure on our children and any future generations who will feel the most impacts from this. There are 18 schools in the affected area and each one of those hold countless young people who count on us to make the right decision and to keep them safe. It is our duty of care not to fail them, I certainly don't want to be remembered as someone who failed my children and caused irreversible damage to their health, do you?

Constituent E, Isabella Plains, concerns raised 12/09/2025 – **Objection to Proposed Royalla Quarry, Asphalt Plant & Concrete Recycling Facility – please help Tuggeranong**

I am a resident of Isabella Plains. I am writing to formally object to the proposed quarry, asphalt plant, and concrete recycling facility in Royalla.

This development poses serious risks to the health, safety, and environment of residents across Tuggeranong and surrounding regions. The public submission period is unreasonably short, and there has been little opportunity for genuine community input.

MY OBJECTIONS:

AIR QUALITY & HEALTH RISKS

This project will release ultrafine dust, silica particles, and other known carcinogens. Tuggeranong already faces elevated asthma and respiratory illness rates from winter woodfire smoke and bushfire seasons. Adding quarry emissions will worsen community health, especially for children, the elderly, and vulnerable groups.

WATER SECURITY & GROUNDWATER

Runoff and groundwater disruption from the quarry risk long-term contamination of Canberra's drinking water catchment. With declining rainfall, lower soil moisture, and increased drought stress, we cannot afford this additional pressure on water security.

TRAFFIC & ROAD SAFETY

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LIMITED COMMUNITY BENEFIT

The proposed 30 jobs and access to additional rock do not justify the massive health, safety, and environmental costs. The primary financial benefit goes to the quarry operators, not to our community.

PROXIMITY TO HOMES & SCHOOLS

The site is less than 6km from Conder, Banks, and Gordon, and under 3km from Theodore. This project directly threatens families, schools, and aged care facilities in the region.

HOUSE VALUES

Tuggeranong is often left forgotten when it comes to funding and this project will leave residents further behind as the health risks will mean a reduction in house value as no sound minded person would want to live here and put their families at risk.

This decision will affect the health, safety, and environment of our community for decades to come. For this project to go ahead it is an ultimate failure on our children and any future generations who will feel the most impacts from this. There are 18 schools in the affected area and each one of those hold countless young people who count on us to make the right decision and to keep them safe. It is our duty of care not to fail them, I certainly don't want to be remembered as someone who failed my grandchildren and caused irreversible damage to their health, do you?

Constituent F, Banks, concerns raised 17/09/2025 – Monaro Rock Quarry Project

I am a resident of Banks. I am writing to formally object to the proposed quarry, asphalt plant, and concrete recycling facility in Royalla.

Please see my objection attached.

Attached written objection:

I am a resident of Banks. I am writing to formally object to the proposed quarry, asphalt plant, and concrete recycling facility in Royalla.

As a resident and ratepayer within the ACT, I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to the proposed quarry development within 6km of densely populated suburbs including Conder, Banks, Gordon, and Theodore. This proposal is not only reckless—it is an affront to the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community.

Canberra residents pay some of the highest rates in the country, significantly more than our NSW counterparts. We do so with the expectation that our environment, infrastructure, and public health will be safeguarded—not sacrificed for private industrial gain.

Health & Air Quality Risks

The release of ultrafine dust, silica particles, and other carcinogens from quarry operations poses a direct threat to public health. Tuggeranong already battles elevated rates of asthma and respiratory illness due to winter woodfire smoke and bushfire seasons. Introducing quarry emissions will compound these risks—especially for children, the elderly, and vulnerable residents.

Water Security & Groundwater Contamination

The proposed site risks runoff and groundwater disruption that could contaminate Canberra's drinking water catchment. With declining rainfall and increasing drought stress, this project adds unacceptable pressure to our already fragile water systems.

Traffic Congestion & Road Safety

The Monaro Highway is already congested and hazardous. High-volume quarry truck traffic will exacerbate road wear, increase accident risk, and disrupt daily commutes for thousands of residents who rely on this arterial route.

Environmental Destruction & Bushfire Risk

Clearing bushland and operating heavy machinery in a fire-prone region is irresponsible. The long-term damage to wildlife habitats and increased ignition risks are irreversible and incompatible with ACT's environmental commitments.

Proximity to Homes, Schools & Aged Care

The proposed site sits alarmingly close to residential areas and community infrastructure. Families, schools, and aged care facilities will be directly impacted by noise, dust, and industrial disruption. This is not a remote quarry—it's a direct intrusion into our daily lives.

Minimal Community Benefit

The promise of 30 jobs and access to rock does not justify the enormous health, safety, and environmental costs. The financial benefit flows to the quarry operator—not to the community bearing the burden.

Precedent & Planning Integrity

This is not the first time a quarry has been proposed near residential zones—and it shouldn't be the last time one is rejected. In Wallan, VIC, the Mitchell Shire Council opposed a quarry in a future residential zone, citing dust, noise, and traffic concerns. The local water authority warned of "unacceptable negative impacts on urban development." Similarly, in Binningup, WA, a quarry proposal was rejected by the Shire of Harvey due to community opposition and environmental risks. These cases reflect a growing recognition that industrial developments must not compromise residential wellbeing.

Lack of Genuine Consultation The public submission period has been unreasonably short, with minimal opportunity for meaningful community input. This undermines democratic process and erodes public trust.

*Constituent G, concerns raised 01/09/2025 – **Note to Mark Parton MLA***

I've just come across the consultation for a proposed large scale quarry to be built several kms from Theodore.

I have been reading the multiple EIS documents and have concerns about potential impact to our air quality by airborne silica as Theodore is known to have distinct atmospheric inversions that often trap pollutants low to the ground.

Constituent H, Conder, communication received 18/09/2025 – **Objection to Proposed Royalla Quarry, Asphalt Plant & Concrete Recycling Facility**

I am a resident of Conder. I am writing to formally object to the proposed quarry, asphalt plant, and concrete recycling facility in Royalla.

This development poses serious risks to the health, safety, and environment of residents across Tuggeranong and surrounding regions. The public submission period is unreasonably short, and there has been little opportunity for genuine community input.

MY OBJECTIONS:

AIR QUALITY & HEALTH RISKS

This project will release ultrafine dust, silica particles, and other known carcinogens. Tuggeranong already faces elevated asthma and respiratory illness rates from winter woodfire smoke and bushfire seasons. Adding quarry emissions will worsen community health, especially for children, the elderly, and vulnerable groups.

WATER SECURITY & GROUNDWATER

Runoff and groundwater disruption from the quarry risk long-term contamination of Canberra's drinking water catchment. With declining rainfall, lower soil moisture, and increased drought stress, we cannot afford this additional pressure on water security.

TRAFFIC & ROAD SAFETY

The Monaro Highway is already unsafe and congested. Adding high-volume quarry trucks will increase accidents, road wear, and travel delays for residents who rely on this arterial route daily. This is particularly concerning for the Tharwa Dr/Monaro Highway roundabout, which is already quite dangerous with near misses observed constantly. Heading southbound on the Monaro Highway where right lane is to Tuggeranong and left lane to Ooma, etc will become further congested and more dangerous. Significant upgrades to the highway would be required to mitigate these safety risks, which given the minimal benefits the quarry offers for Canberra, is not really justifiable.

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE & BUSHFIRE RISKS

Clearing bushland and operating heavy industrial machinery will threaten wildlife habitats and increase ignition risks in an already fire-prone area. The ecosystem disruption will be long-lasting and irreversible.

LIMITED COMMUNITY BENEFIT

The proposed 30 jobs and access to additional rock do not justify the massive health, safety, and environmental costs. The primary financial benefit goes to the quarry operators, not to our community.

PROXIMITY TO HOMES & SCHOOLS

The site is less than 6km from Conder, Banks, and Gordon, and under 3km from Theodore. This project directly threatens families, schools, and aged care facilities in the region.

This decision will affect the health, safety, and environment of our community for decades to come.

Kind regards

Constituent I, Condor, communication received 21/09/2025 – Quarry in Royalla

Thankyou for posting and highlighting the project on the Lanyon Valley site.

We have not been consulted in our area about this proposal. No emails no other information seen.

We live in ... in conder which is virtually opposite the mine and based on the proposal are between 3-4kms away from excavation site. Our concerns are blasting and impact it will have on our home with vibration. Also dust and noise pollution. Our home is in the zone of direct social influence of this site.

The Environmental impact Statement for 2025 does not seem to have consulted with other stakeholders like Actew as major power lines exist in the area or with the ACT government planning.

When compared to the Mugga Lane study this proposal does not contain enough details or regulation on the impact of the environmental, heritage, water as well as energy.

There seems to be little consideration for fire/disaster emergency prevention or any planning in the proposal. As this is a high risk operation.

No wind direction study was shown either.

The outlined map clearly states on page 43 we are impacted yet no one has consulted.

It was only via your Facebook post and a recent post from a Royalla resident that on Lanyon Facebook page that highlighted we were not consulted and that Canberra's were not aware of the proximity of this project until now.

The consultation meeting took place on the 9th September we saw no notification from this and according to meeting notes only 15 people attended.

We are extremely concerned and want more transparency and better environmental studies that consider impact this has on local residence. Not enough impact studies have been done. In my opinion this project should not go ahead.

Further the impact on our house values due to this project has not been addressed either.

Would appreciate you contacting us in future in regard to how address some of these concerns and possibly reject this project.

Kindest regards

As a good comparison when it talks about a number of issues. Monaro Quarry site appears not to have had detailed information on flora fauna, affected waterways and underground water tables as well as heritage significance. Not enough environmental research or exploration done.

Constituent J, Theodore, concerns raised 22/09/2025 – **phone call to office objecting the quarry**

- Constituent noted noise concerns, mentioning that they are a shift worker, alongside increased traffic and proposed health risks
- Constituent mentioned they would consider selling their property if the quarry were to go ahead, and noted the subsequent expected decline in the value of their property

Constituent K, Royalla, concerns raised 22/09/2025 – Monaro Rock industrial plant and quarry

We are writing to inform you about a development application for a quarry that will impact the ACT even though it is in NSW.

Monaro Rock has submitted a development application and environmental impact statement for a hard rock quarry and industrial processing plant near Enchanted Hill in Royalla. This facility is located 2.2km from the nearest residents in Theodore and is close also to Calwell, Richardson, Chisholm, Gilmore, Conder and Banks. Activities include blasting and crushing rock, recycling concrete and producing asphalt and concrete.

The quarry will add up to 500 truck journeys per day onto the Monaro Highway at an uncontrolled intersection using slip lanes. This will be a truck every three minutes entering and leaving the highway and merging with traffic, posing a safety risk to commuters and increasing travel times and frustration. Traffic will be flowing up to 13 hours a day, six days a week.

Our main objection is the proximity of the quarry to residents, and the impact of silica dust and traffic. An estimated 49,000 people in the ACT and NSW live within 5km of the site, and this is forecast to grow to 69,000 in the next ten years. The strong winds from near the top of Enchanted Hill could carry dust into Canberra's suburbs and this may have long term health implications for residents. There is growing concern supported by evidence that long term exposure to silica dust has severe health implications.

The site will discharge water into Tuggeranong Creek, and there's a risk that this could be heavily sedimented. This water eventually ends up in Lake Tuggeranong. Other runoff goes to Lake Burley Griddin and the Murrumbidgee River. The project also identifies that water resources in the ACT may suffer drawdown.

Monaro Rock claim that this rock is required for Canberra's future growth, but we know from talking with the three other quarries in the region that they are producing under their approved limits and have supply for many years to come. One is in the early stages of applying to expand their operations. We believe this quarry plus industrial estate is not suited to this location due to its proximity to residents.