

[Name redacted]
[Address redacted]
Royalla NSW 2620

10 September 2025

The Hon Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

RE: Objection to Proposed Monaro Rock Quarry Project – Application No. SSD-27223807

Dear Minister Scully,

I write as a concerned resident of the Royalla area to express my strong opposition to the proposed Monaro Rock Quarry in our area.

Let me be clear: I am not opposed to industry, nor do I dispute the value of the responsible extraction and use of our natural resources. However, the current proposal is fundamentally incompatible with the character, function and values of our community. It is an ill-fitting industrial intrusion into an established semi-rural residential environment and, if approved, would cause irreversible harm to our health, lifestyle, property, amenity, and environment for generations to come. Below are the reasons for my opposition.

1. Incompatibility with Royalla's Semi-Rural Character

The proposed site is surrounded by small acreage properties, family homes, and lifestyle blocks – not industrial land. The character of our area is defined by peace, clean air, natural surroundings and low-density living. It is a place where people have chosen to live, raise families, and invest – often at significant financial and personal cost. People choose to live in the area as a refuge from urban and industrial stress, not an expansion of it!

2. A Picture Paints a Thousand Words

They say a picture paints a thousand words: the quarry would transform our serene landscape into an industrial eyesore, with a flurry of permanent daily activity disrupting the very essence of why people choose to live here. While I cannot fully convey the experience adequately on paper including dust, noise, and constant roaring trucks, the photos below serve as a stark visual reminder of the potential impending consequences to the site's 'E2 Environmental Conservation' land zoning.

Image 1: View from the proposed extraction area to the northeast towards Fernleigh Park



Image 2: View from the proposed extraction area to the southwest towards Royalla



Image 3: Quarry at Cooma Road, 9km away. Imagine this, there! ^^



3. Insufficient Justification for the Quarry

There are four quarries already operating in the Canberra/Queanbeyan region.¹ The applicant claims that by 2029, demand for quarry materials will be greater than what these existing sites can supply. However, their own projections indicate that their new quarry would only meet 30-35% of local demand, with future shortfalls still expected. This admission undermines the necessity of the project, as it fails to fully address the anticipated demand. Therefore, a more suitable site should be sought—one with larger resources and fewer negative impacts on a well-established tight knit community and surrounding urban area. A more viable solution would be to identify a larger quarry in a more appropriate location rather than have multiple smaller operations that would spread the negative impacts throughout the region.

4. More Appropriate Land Use for Royalla

A simple zoomed-out view of the area using aerial mapping reveals what the locals already know: the surrounding land is ideal for continued semi-rural residential and/or agricultural use, not for heavy industry. Homes are located alarmingly close to the proposed site. The proximity to established and future residences makes this location entirely unsuitable.

The applicant also points to regional population growth as justification for the quarry. Ironically, that same population growth highlights the importance of preserving land like this for future semi-rural residential development. As demand increases for lifestyle blocks within reach of the city, Royalla stands out as the perfect location to meet that need—without the destruction and degradation associated with a quarry.

5. Financial Gains vs. Community Impact

It is important to remember that two families only primarily stand to gain financially from this proposal, while thousands of current and future residents will be left to bear the burden of its lasting consequences and negative impacts. This proposal offers nothing but permanent inconvenience, ongoing disruption, loss, and risk for the community. It is not fair or sustainable and does not serve the broader public interest.

The impacts of this quarry are wide-reaching: dust (including crystalline silica), groundwater risk, visual scarring, noise, vibration, destruction of habitat, traffic increases and the daily disruption caused by industrial activity running from 5am to 6pm, six days a week, *for 35 years!* That is not temporary disruption – that is a generational imposition!

¹ Williamsdale Quarry (Heidelberg), Cooma Road Quarry (Holcim), Mugga Quarry (Boral), Hall Quarry (Boral).

6. Unsafe and Impractical Quarry Access Road

Particularly alarming is the proposed Quarry Access Road intersecting with the Monaro Highway. As a daily user, I can confirm this section of the highway is completely unsuitable for the volume and frequency of truck movements proposed— somewhere between 200-500 per day! The proposed entry point intersects with three lanes including an overtaking lane; and solid road lines separating opposing traffic. During snow season, traffic often banks up for kilometres past the proposed entrance, creating chaotic and hazardous conditions. Introducing heavy truck traffic into this scenario would be irresponsible and pose significant risks to all road users.

The applicant's proposed alternative access route via Old Cooma Road is equally problematic. Presuming an intention for the trucks to still eventually travel out to the Monaro Highway, there is nothing to stop them from travelling in the opposite direction down Old Cooma Road past Mt Pleasant Estate, Mt Campbell Estate, Fernleigh Park, Googong, and the new QPRC cemetery. Along this 14km route they would pass hundreds of residential properties as close as 20-50 metres from the road. With operations from 5am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday, this would be unacceptably disruptive to the residents and pose significant risks to the safety and well-being of the community.

7. Real Lived Experience Must Carry Weight

Local residents, already familiar with the impacts of a nearby quarry, understand the true consequences of this proposal. Unlike the McPherson and Ferreira families, who may lack this lived experience, our community knows the dust, noise, and disruption that a quarry brings. We are not dealing in theory – we are describing the real, measurable damage that quarries inflict. I urge you to give our real-world insights more weight than the theoretical impacts outlined in the applicant's proposal.

8. Threat to Residents' Investments and Lifestyle

For more than three decades, people have chosen to make the Royalla region their home because of the qualities this quarry would ultimately destroy. Each year, more families join our community for its tranquility, clean air, and healthy environment. These values are fundamental to our way of life and should not be traded for a project with marginal regional benefit while causing major harm and distress to the local community.

9. Conclusion: Reject the Proposal

In conclusion, the proposed quarry is fundamentally inconsistent with Royalla's semi-rural character and community expectations. It risks irreversible harm to residents' health, quality

of life, property values, and the environment, while failing to deliver balanced benefits to the broader community. The addition of the quarry is not as meaningful as the absence of it. In the strongest possible terms, I urge you to reject this application and prioritize more appropriate land use as intended under the site's original and current 'E2 Environmental Conservation' land zoning.

I am available to discuss these concerns further and would be happy to arrange a tour of a quarry-affected site to provide additional context for your decision-making. Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

[Name redacted]