



LAURA NUTTALL

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24th September 2025

NSW Planning Authority

Submission regarding Application SSD-27223807

Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit my views on the proposed Monaro Rock Quarry on behalf of my constituents as the ACT Greens Member for Brindabella, covering the southern-most part of the ACT nearby the proposed development.

I would like to express my concern around a number of possible impacts from the proposed project, including environmental and social impacts. Many constituents have written to me echoing these concerns and raised them with me in person during my public engagements in the electorate.

Impacts that are concerning to Tuggeranong residents include health and air quality impacts from dust and silica particulate. As one constituent from Banks said, "Tuggeranong already battles elevated rates of asthma and respiratory illness due to winter woodfire smoke and bushfire season....quarry emissions will compound these risks - especially for children, the elderly, and vulnerable residents." The Air Quality Assessment identifies that exceedances in particular matter monitoring from the quarry are a result of elevated background concentrations likely due to wood heater smoke. What this shows is that our air quality is already poor, and the quarry could exacerbate it. Significant efforts are being made to improve our air quality and the proposed development would be a step backwards in air quality for our region.

Residents of Tuggeranong place high value on our proximity to the natural environment, including our rolling hills and our desire for clean air - these are integral components of Tuggeranong residents' sense of place in our Bush Capital. I have represented these views in the ACT's Legislative Assembly through a fierce debate on the presence of wood heaters, which cause significant air pollution that gets stuck in our region due to the topography of our valleys. Wood heater smoke has a detrimental impact on many Canberrans, not least the 65,000 Canberrans who suffer from respiratory issues. These impacts and concerns will be exacerbated by the operations of the proposed quarry, with the possibility of dust and silica particulate impacting on residents air quality and water quality. Constituents are concerned that atmospheric inversions caused by Tuggeranong's geography have not been examined in the context of dust and air borne pollution from the quarry and the likelihood of trapping pollutants close to the ground, and I echo these concerns.

Traffic congestion and road safety is another key concern raised with me by constituents. The project's demands on the Monaro Highway will exacerbate what is already a congested and hazardous road during busy times. The project will allow up to 500 trucks per day in additional traffic to transport product from the quarry, and the impacts of this on the ACT must be further investigated. I understand that the proponent may be required to submit a Development Application in the ACT

due to its use of the Monaro Highway, and if so, I encourage the proponent to undertake further direct engagement with Tuggeranong residents to understand how impacts will be perceived and identify possible management options.

Many negative impacts raised by my constituents are acknowledged and reflected in the proponent's Social Impact Assessment Report. That report identifies negative impacts on nearby residents, including those in the Tuggeranong region within my electorate, or dust, noise, blasting, vibration and traffic, and health concerns including respiratory impacts and stress.

It is unacceptable that the proponent acknowledges that Tuggeranong residents may be aware of blasting impacts from the Quarry, but has not investigated these in detail (Social Impact Assessment p. 79). I urge the Planning Authority to require the proponent to investigate the severity of any possible impacts from blasting on Tuggeranong residents.

Additionally, the environmental impacts of this project are unacceptable due to the proposed clearing of habitat, including critically endangered Box Gum Woodland, and other vegetation containing threatened species, including the Small Purple-pea and Pale Pomaderris. A number of threatened fauna species are dependent on land to be cleared by the project, including the Gang-Gang Cockatoo and Flame Robin. These impacts, along with possible disturbances to surface water flows and residual impacts to groundwater have been raised with me by my constituents.

Finally, the EIS identifies impacts to sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage value. The EIS claims that the majority of sites are of high cultural significance but "most are considered common and of low scientific value" (p. 6-123). This is an unacceptable conclusion and the ACT Greens are firmly of the view that any direct impacts to sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage should be avoided.

On behalf of my constituents, I am opposed to this project going ahead. My constituents have requested an extension to the public submission period so that further consultation with local communities can be undertaken. Given the level of discomfort by nearby residents around the impacts of the project, my constituents have also requested that an independent assessment of health, safety and environmental impacts be undertaken.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Laura Nuttall' in a cursive script.

Laura Nuttall
Member for Brindabella