

Submission – Monaro Rock Quarry Project

To: NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure / Monaro Rock Pty Ltd

Subject: Swift Parrot Concerns – Monaro Rock Quarry Proposal

Dear Assessment Panel,

I am writing as a concerned community member regarding the potential impacts of the proposed Monaro Rock Quarry on the endangered Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*). This species is nationally significant, with fewer than 750 individuals thought to remain. It migrates through our region in autumn and winter, feeding on flowering eucalypts.

Key Points

- The site supports Yellow Box Grassy Woodland, which can provide foraging resources for Swift Parrots when flowering.
- I have personally observed swift parrots annually in August for the previous approx 7 years; we are located approximately 3km from the proposed quarry site. Additionally, records (from BirdLife Australia, Atlas of Living Australia, and Canberra Nature Map) demonstrate we are well placed within the corridor of regular sightings for this region, specifically between Lake Tuggeranong and Googong.
- Because Swift Parrots are nomadic, they can appear unpredictably wherever mature flowering eucalypts occur.
- The quarry may remove or disturb trees that could otherwise support this endangered species during its migration.

Requests

- Carry out Swift Parrot surveys in the right season (April–August) before clearing begins.
- Retain and protect as many mature eucalypts as possible, especially flowering Yellow Box.
- If Swift Parrots are detected, delay or adjust quarry operations until after the birds have moved on.
- Ensure offsets and rehabilitation include planting of eucalypts that provide nectar and lerp food sources.

Summary

The Swift Parrot is one of Australia's most threatened birds. Even though the site has no confirmed records so far, the habitat present means it is highly probable to be used by these nomadic, migratory parrots. I urge decision-makers to apply a precautionary approach and ensure strong protections and monitoring for this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,
Royalla Resident

24 September 2025