

23/09/2025

Good morning Sir/Maddam

My name is Kylie Hynes and I am a resident of Royall NSW and at 20 Mates Drive live right behind the site where the proposed Monaro Rock Quarry is to be established.

This is the first time I have ever written to the State Government, however I am somewhat familiar with how Ministerial or Submission progressed after working in the Federal Public Service for many years, so I am asking you, please please read the whole of my submission.

My family and I have lived in Royall for 24 years purchasing our first block/home at 41 Arena Place. At the time of purchase we knew there was an old quarry near us (Williamsdale Quarry owned by Hanson Construction) but were told it was not operational and would not become so. A couple of years passed and the quarry opened up again without any consultation to the local residents. Over the 19 years of living there the environmental conditions from the quarry got worse and worse. When they blasted it would always shake my house and at times I would have pictures falling off the walls and mantel piece, on the veranda table I would wipe thick dust off that morning and it would be back just as thick that afternoon. I had never had asthma before but developed it while living there due to the constant dust which could not be prevented and the EPA did nothing.

Fast forward a couple of years and my husband and I decided to move our family away from the immediate presence of the Williamsdale quarry and purchased our current property at 20 Mates drive Royalla, and was assured by the real estate agency that there was not quarry or industrial site proposed for the land behind our new home. This was totally false and misleading as after a year of being here we found out that Monaro Rock which was part of Monaro Mix at the time and Pacific Form Work were planning to build a quarry right behind us, could you imagine my shock and utter disbelief !

Since finding out this information on what Monaro Rock plan to do I have suffered acute anxiety and mental health issues at even the thought of this going ahead knowing that no matter what they tell you or who ever makes these decisions my family will be breathing in silica dust and it will be going into our water tank into our garden even our animals will be breathing it in 6 days a week.

The impact this proposed quarry will have on our family's lives and the lives of other people in the community and surrounding community is horrifying remembering it only takes one grain of silica dust to cause illness.

I have noted some dot points below to highlight the impact on our family and community. Silicosis and cancer causing silica dust can be minute and travel up to 17.8 miles on high wind day which not only covers Royalla but most of Tuggeranong, Little Burra, Googong and Jerrbomberra area:

- Royalla is a windy area all year round and can have wind gusts up to 85.3 km per hour
- Degradation of property belongings due to regular blasting
- Noise pollution from the machinery in the quarry
- Life threatening road traffic with up to 500 truck movements a day from the site causing havoc on the Monaro Highway which already sees huge numbers of crashes and several fatalities
- The air pollution from these trucks carrying silica dust as they drive along the highway even if mitigated will still seep out and blow in the wind to schools, play grounds and sports fields where hundreds if not thousands of children and adults participate in sport and recreation activities
- An even greater risk is if the trucks were to come along the Old Cooma road which is not built for heavy vehicles and is single lane and is on the front boundary of at least 100 houses
- Risk of fire from stock piled fuel for truck
- Limited outdoor activity due to air and noise pollution and odour
- Loss of water from the water table and pollution
 1. Property owners with bores will be impacted and all live stock
 2. Fire prevention methods will be compromised causing more anxiety for those who have been through 2003 and 2019/2020 bush fires
 3. Massive pollution risk from run off water from the quarry
- Loss of biodiversity and animal habitat
- Increased stress and anxiety for those living close the site
- Reduced quality of life

A significant number of the residents in the communities of Royalla, Little Burra, Googong, Jerrabomberra NSW and Tuggeranpong ACT had little to no consultation regarding the quarry proposal and the impact it will have on their health, daily driving, recreation and quality of life. . This quarry is not wanted by the community and other communities bordering the area of the proposed quarry.and should never have been allowed to get this far due to all the risks stated above and it being a rural **residential** area .

Below is a sample of information including the web address which shows the impact of silica dust and how far it can travel.

The following tables demonstrate the relationship between particle size, wind speed, and distance traveled:



✕ = construction site
○ = area exposed to silica dust

Table 1: 10-micron particle

Wind Speed (mph)	Distance Traveled (miles)
3.1	.55
6.2	1.1
12.4	2.3
24.8	4.6
37.3	6.9
49.7	9.2

Table 2: 5-micron particle

Wind Speed (mph)	Distance Traveled (miles)
3.1	2.2
6.2	4.5
12.4	9
24.8	18
37.3	27
49.7	36.1

The following tables demonstrate the relationship between particle size, wind speed, and distance traveled: Clearly, the smaller the particle the further the distance the dust particle travels, especially in an environment with stronger winds. While these are average distances, this phenomenon illustrates how pertinent it is for proper engineering controls to be in place when it comes to suppressing silica dust. Failing to properly control silica dust affects not only the construction crew, but people in the surrounding areas- in some cases as far as 50 miles from the site.

[NeSilex Silica Dust Suppressant](#)

Understanding the Properties of Silica Dust

Composition and Generation

Silica dust, a byproduct of activities like cutting, grinding, or drilling materials containing crystalline silica, is composed of minuscule particles. **These particles are so small that they can remain suspended in the air for extended periods.** The generation of these particles occurs when materials such as concrete, brick, tile, or stone are worked on without adequate protection measures.

The size and shape of the crystalline silica particles play a crucial role in determining their behavior once airborne. For instance, quartz, one form of crystalline silica commonly found in construction materials, has jagged edges which contribute to its ability to stay suspended in the air for longer durations compared to other forms like cristobalite and tridymite.

Airborne Behavior

The behavior of silica dust in the air is heavily influenced by its particle size and shape. **Due to their minute nature and lightweight properties, these tiny particles can linger in the air for prolonged periods before settling down. This means that even after an activity involving crystalline silica has ceased, the dust remains present in the surrounding environment.**

The small size also enables these particles to be easily transported over long distances through air currents. As a result, individuals working near sources of crystalline silica may not be the only ones at risk; nearby communities could also potentially be exposed if proper precautions are not taken to contain this hazardous substance.

[Global Road Technology International](#)

In closing there is no need for another quarry particularly in a residential area when there are at least 5 quarries in the surrounding district that can adequately provide the rock needed by the industries.

It is just pure greed driving this development and the benefit for a few will be the downfall of many. I have to say I don't know how my family and I will live with the stress of having a quarry right next to us yet again and I pray that no one succumbs to any silica related illness or accident on the roads where all these trucks will be however a fear my fate is already sealed.

Kind Regards

Kylie Hynes

