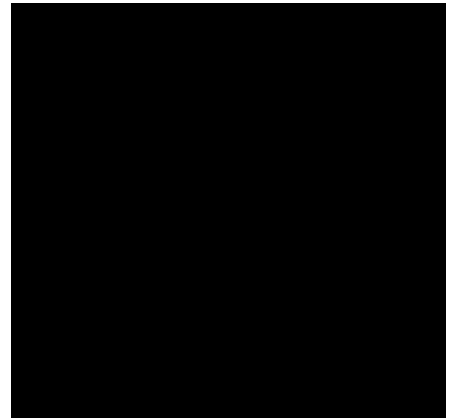


16 January 2025

Brad Cam
The General Manager
Mid Western Regional Council
PO Box 156
Mudgee NSW 2850



Dear Brad

The [REDACTED] objects to the Gulgong Quarry project (DA0070/2025 – Lot 1 DP 1239728, 1848 Castlereagh Highway Gulgong)

To date we have witnessed developers of wind/solar/BESS and transmission completely disregard community concerns over any of their projects. We've also seen them disregard conditions of consent. Those in the transmission line path have "negotiated" with a virtual gun to their head. Many of the landowners with leases to developers are just beginning to learn how they have been duped by slick talking developers.

If this quarry was only for the council to use for upgrading roads within the council area there would likely be little resistance. But this project is solely for the developers to mine non-renewable resources to build unreliable wind and solar without regard to social licence or preservation of our environment. The short life span of these developments and the fact that consumers are forced to pay for this destruction of their environment through their ever increasing power bills is despicable.

[REDACTED] objects to this development as it is planned to assist the destruction of our environment, our homes and our agricultural land. The water usage, diesel usage and land clearing of this project and the projects it is planned to support will contribute to what will inevitably be seen as the biggest environmental and economic disaster of the century.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To:

[Council](#)

Subject:

Talinga Quarry DA0070\2025

Date:

Tuesday, 7 January 2025 1:49:32 PM

The General Manager
Mid-Western Regional Council
86 Market St
MUDGEE NSW 2850

Dear Sir,

We would like to advise concerns we have about the proposed Quarry on Talinga and how it will impact us given its close proximity of 1.3 klms.

Our main concerns are:

1. NOISE

We have read the Quarry will be operating from 7am to 6pm six days a week with blasting occurring five days a week as needed from 9am to 3pm. These hours will be extended when required. We will have road noise of up to sixty trucks a day loaded and then returning empty in addition to normal traffic using the Highway in front of our house and the Tucklan Road.

Regardless of actions taken to mitigate some noise, the long hours, eleven hours a day or longer, six days a week or longer, we object too.

For comparison, we are 2.1 klms from the railway line and hear the train movements. As the milder noise quickly passes it is not a problem. When the Sibelco Magnetite Mine was in production, being 4 klms south of us, we could hear their crusher housed in a shed operating.

2. WATER

The amount of water needed as it will use underground water to supplement the sediment dam water. We, and other local farmers rely on underground water. We note the report states the water table on the west side of the Quarry is depleted.

In prolonged dry years and severe droughts that the Quarry will experience over its operating life, we anticipate it will be detrimental to the water table from which it subsidises its own water storage. Concerning us is if this water will be drawn from a bore on Tallawang Creek, also the source of our water supply. Will bore water be monitored for depth and quality?

3. DUST

Our property is close enough to receive dust from blasting and daily operations. Dust will also drift across from the Tucklan turnoff, especially in favourable wind conditions. As the traffic increase into the Tucklan Road will be substantial, enough for dust to impede visibility, does Council have any plans to address this.

4. LOSS OF LAND VALUE

With constant noise all day, six days a week or more from Quarry operations and very heavy road traffic, this surely would deter anyone wanting to live here and affect our

property value.

In conclusion, we are not objecting to the Quarry itself. We would like more consideration given to nearby local landowners who would have to endure the unwanted consequences of such an operation. We would like to co-exist without having a major detrimental impact on our business and lifestyle.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Our Ref: TM:14116

16 January 2025

The General Manager
Mid-Western Regional Council
PO Box 156
MUDGEES NSW 2850

By email: council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Hannah Draper

Dear Madam

Proposed Extractive Industry
Talinga, 1848 Castlereagh Highway, TALLAWANG NSW 2852 ('Site').
DA0070/2025 ('DA')

We act for the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and their families who live and work on the property to the north of the Site. Our clients are a farming family that has owned their property for 5 generations. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] They also carry out a grazing enterprise in the vicinity of the proposed development.

We are instructed on behalf of our clients to object to the DA.

Primary position

Our client's primary submission is that the DA should be refused on the basis that the site is not suitable.

Inadequate analysis has been carried out by the proponent to demonstrate that the proposed site is favourable in comparison to other sites in the vicinity, and in particular on the proponent's own property. The extent of the analysis of alternative locations seems to be limited to paragraph 2.7 of the EIS which refers to a knoll at the "*rear of the site*". That location was ruled out due only to "*perceived*" adverse ecological and amenity impacts without due consideration of those impacts.

In assessing the suitability of the site in accordance with the requirements of section 4.15(1)(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, our clients submit that it is critical for Council to properly consider those alternatives.

It is submitted that there is a considerably more suitable site location to the southwest of the proposed site in the location marked in red in the **Annexure**. The alternative location is better for reasons including the following:

- The alternative location forms part of the proponent's land holding (see page 217 of EIS).
- The alternative location would not be proximate to dwellings. Whereas the closest dwelling to the proposed Site (our client's dwelling) is located approximately 788 metres from the quarry, the alternative location would result in the closest dwelling being located in the order of 2 kilometres from the quarry.
- There would be no potential blasting impacts on surrounding residents or non-compliant dust or particle deposition on surrounding residences as is, concerning, the case with the proposal.
- Unlike the proposed Site, which is very close to the northernmost boundary of the subject lot with virtually no setback, the alternative location would not require excavation and quarrying activities on the boundary of other landholdings.
- The alternative location is located on the same gravel bed and shares characteristics with the site of generally having poor agricultural productivity with rocky features and shallow soils.
- There are a small number of trees in the alternative location. Otherwise, we are instructed that the vegetation in that area is predominantly limited to Sifton bush, a common species understood to be of low biodiversity value. The extent of any biodiversity mapping of the area under the *Mid-Western Regional Local Environmental Plan 2012* should be properly assessed and examined in that context.
- As further explained below, the alternative location would result in an access road and intersection in a safer and more suitable location. Unlike the proposed site, which requires access in the immediate vicinity of a curved section of a dangerous stretch of road, the alternative location could rely on an east-west access road intersecting with the Castlereagh Highway on a long straight stretch of the Highway with good lines of sight.

Alternative submission

Notwithstanding our client's position that the site the subject of the application is unsuitable and that the application should be refused, our clients have instructed us to put forward submissions seeking to address concerns with the proposal in its present location.

These submissions are put forward to make clear our client's alternative position and should not be considered to be any concession of our clients as to the suitability of the Site of the proposed development.

Visual impact – active development

The visual impact on our clients' two dwellings has not been adequately assessed nor mitigated.

We are instructed that our client's nearest dwelling [REDACTED] has a living area, covered entertaining area and two bedrooms that have their primary outlook on to the Site. There are also work sheds and corresponding areas associated with our client's farming enterprise where our clients spend a large amount of time. Their second proximate dwelling [REDACTED] also has rooms that are orientated with views towards the proposed quarry.

Despite the proximity and orientation of our client's dwellings relative to the Site, we are instructed that our clients have never been approached by the proponent or their consultants to visit their property to undertake an assessment of the impact of the proposal. In so far as it relates to our client's residences, the visual assessment at paragraph 7.3.6 of the EIS cannot be relied upon in those circumstances. Our clients formally request that such an assessment be undertaken and for Council to also attend their property to undertake such an assessment.

Additionally, the application incorporates no specific enforceable measures to seek to address the visual impact of the proposal. The most that the EIS proposes for such measures is to suggest that the active quarry face will be "*progressively worked behind a topographic barrier until such time as sufficient depth is achieved*". No detail has been provided about the topographic barrier sufficient for our client to understand what is proposed. Nor does the proponent demonstrate how that will be achieved and whether it will be capable of being defined and enforced.

The EIS also downplays the visual impact significance at page 15 of the EIS. A mere inability to see into the working quarry, and the reduction in height of the knoll, does not mean that there will not be significant adverse impact. It certainly does not mean that there will be an improved impact. The references fail to acknowledge the enormous area, of potentially greater than 7 hectares, of manipulated topography, and disturbed soil and rock. They will present as a rocky and unsightly landscape to our clients for a period of at least 25 years in a location that would otherwise have formed part of a beautiful rural vista.

Inadequate consideration has been given to mitigation of that visual impact and our clients implore Council to visit their properties and consult with them. A proper assessment should be undertaken including through discussion of landscape treatment that could soften the visual impact, a requirement to avoid piling of rock and soil piles in visible areas of the quarry, and demonstration through a

management plan as to how the visual impact will be managed to avoid views of the quarry face from neighbouring properties.

Additionally, inadequate detail has been provided as to the buildings proposed to accompany the development. The EIS also provides at paragraph 3.4.6 that buildings may be shifted periodically. In the circumstances a condition ought to be imposed making clear that no buildings are approved and requiring any buildings to be subject to a separate application.

Visual impact – post development

Our clients carry out a multi-generational farming enterprise and wish to encourage later generations to continue to work on and occupy their property.

Our clients are concerned about the long-term appearance of any approved quarry post completion. The rehabilitation plan submitted in support of the application is vague and unenforceable. In particular, there is a general reference to “Revegetated with Native Trees and Shrub Species (variable density)” without any particulars of the height, density or type of those species. In order for a proper visual assessment to be carried out, detail should be provided regarding the type and density of vegetation to be planted and the management processes being proposed to ensure the survival of the plantings.

To ensure compliance with rehabilitation requirements when there is no financial incentive to do so, a condition ought to be imposed on any approval requiring a public positive covenant to be registered in favour of Council pursuant to section 88E of the *Conveyancing Act 1919* empowering Council to enforce the rehabilitation and revegetation requirements. This is particularly so because there may otherwise be issues with enforcement of conditions if the Site is later sold to a third party that did not carry out the quarry development.

Groundwater impacts

The groundwater report submitted in support of the application is inconclusive and does not demonstrate whether the excavation will intercept with groundwater and therefore lead to corresponding environmental impacts. The report confirms in section 8.3 and 10 that the boring undertaken by Douglas Partners was inconclusive in that regard.

The failure to properly investigate this matter through investigative boring is unacceptable and inconsistent with the precautionary principle. Appropriate investigations should be undertaken. If, despite that submission, Council is not minded to require this then at the very least a detailed monitoring program should be implemented by condition of consent requiring frequent ongoing monitoring of groundwater during excavation and appropriate action taken (including the ceasing

of all work and further excavation) in the event that groundwater is intercepted in the operations.

Dust impacts

Our clients are concerned regarding impacts on human health, on the health of their livestock, and on water supplies resulting from dust emissions.

That concern is compounded by the confirmation within the Air Quality Assessment (pages 26 to 42) that the 24-hour average PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} predictions are above the acceptable criteria.

The report seeks to justify the exceedance by citing the *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (Approved Methods)* which provides as follows (our emphasis):

In some locations, existing ambient air pollutant concentrations may exceed the impact assessment criteria from time to time. In such circumstances, a licensee must demonstrate that no additional exceedances of the impact criteria assessment will occur as a result of the proposed activity and that best management practices will be implemented to minimise emissions

But the information in the report suggests that these requirements of the Approved Methods are not satisfied.

Ambient air pollutant concentrations

It is submitted that the ambient air pollutant concentration figures are flawed and do not represent an adequate prediction of background levels. They are taken from some distance away at Merriwa for a single year in 2023 where concentration levels of pollutants were confirmed to have been elevated by smoke from bushfires (see paragraph 5.3 of the Air Quality Assessment). Smoke from bushfires is not necessarily representative of every year.

To ensure a reliable comparison, and to avoid unrepresentative selection of data, further data should be considered and compared. The further data should span and/or compare more than one year (including years that exclude bushfires) and more than one location in order to determine the ambient air pollutant concentration figures.

No additional exceedances of the impact criteria

The air quality assessment concedes that, contrary to the applicable requirements, there will be additional exceedances of the impact criteria assessment for the 24-hour average PM_{2.5} predictions and PM₁₀ predictions.

For example, in relation to the cumulative the PM₁₀ predictions, the predicted cumulative average PM₁₀ concentrations are concerningly high at 69.44 ug/m³ for our client's dwelling at [REDACTED] well above the criteria of 50 ug/m³ (see Table 7-2).

There is no reasonable justification for such a high exceedance.

The proponent seeks to manipulate those figures in Table 7-3 by reference to an (already flawed) ambient background of 49.4 ug/m³ (see paragraph 7.2) being close to the criteria of 50 ug/m³. We fail to see how a projected figure of 69.44 ug/m³, some 40% above acceptable criteria of 50 ug/m³, is acceptable in any way when background measurements are only 49.4 ug/m³. The proponent has not demonstrated in the supporting reports (including Table 7-3 of the air quality assessment) how the quarry operations will not have contributed to a significant non-compliance with applicable criteria.

Best management practices will be implemented to minimise emissions

The application does not demonstrate that best management practices will be implemented. Some examples of mitigation are included within paragraph 6.1.4 without any commitment to implement those requirements. By way of example:

- The report provides a vague reference to “*best management practices will be implemented to minimise emissions as far as practical*”. The reference to “*as far as practical*” provides the proponent with a clear basis to avoid implementing that management requirements.
- There are numerous examples of vague and unenforceable language being used. For example, the report refers to “*routine*” monitoring without committing to time intervals. The report refers to “*adverse weather conditions*” without defining what those weather conditions are by reference to wind speeds and other quantitative weather parameters. Material drop height is to be “*minimised*” without reference to a maximum drop height. And the drill rig is to be fitted with dust suppression but only “*as appropriate*”. Section 3.5.7 of the EIS refers to water spraying “*as required*” and use of a water tanker “*regularly*” without reference to the frequency of intervals. Section 4.2 refers to “*regular*” inspections for excessive visible dust without committing to time intervals, locations, or criteria for determining what is ‘excessive’.
- The application proposes use of the sediment basin to obtain water for dust suppression. However, there is nothing to demonstrate that the water levels will be sufficient. There is also no provision for dust suppression during initial stages prior to construction of the basin or provision for a back-up water source in the event of low water levels or polluted water.

If the development is to be approved in any form, Council ought to insist on:

- a detailed management plan with enforceable and, where possible, quantitative or objectively determinable requirements that reflect the proposals for emission controls in paragraph 6.1.4 and elsewhere in the supporting documentation. A condition requiring compliance with the EIS and supporting reports would be insufficient because those reports use vague and unenforceable language. Compliance with that management plan ought to be enforced by way of a condition of consent;
- obligations to undertake and keep records of ongoing monitoring of air quality on the nearest residences;
- obligations to meet quantifiable criteria with dust emissions to ensure ongoing compliance.

Vibration impacts

Our clients have significant concerns about the vibration impacts on their homes and amenity. We are instructed that their homes sit on the same gravel bed as the Site of the quarry.

Paragraph 7.2 of the noise and vibration report submitted in support of the application is vague in its assessment of blasting impacts. Concerningly, paragraph 7.2 provides that “[a]ccurate modelling of blasting cannot be undertaken given the current uncertainty of the surrounding soil landscape”.

Instead of undertaking that modelling, the report provides a bare statement that blasting activities “*have the capacity to be safely completed within EPA blast vibration and overpressure limits without damage to surrounding structures or nearby sensitive receivers*”. But the suggestion for ensuring that this occurs is simply a reference to monitoring being undertaken during all blasting operations.

Given the vague recommendations, our clients are concerned that blasting will lead to unpredictable damage and unsatisfactory amenity impacts. Monitoring of such impacts during blasting operations will only reveal issues once it is too late.

There is also an insufficient explanation as to why blasting needs to be carried out at all, and why the quarry cannot proceed without the use of blasting.

Our client submits that blasting should not be permitted in those circumstances.

If, despite our client’s objection, blasting is permitted in any way, our clients are concerned that the monitoring proposals in paragraph 3.5.3 of the EIS are generally insufficient.

Given that there is no effective setback between the quarry and our client’s property, our clients are also concerned that there will be unavoidable deposition of rocks and

stone on to their property. They have anecdotal evidence from other landowners that live in proximity to quarries confirming that this occurs.

In addition to a further assessment of any blasting to determine impacts will be acceptable, conditions of consent ought to be imposed incorporating:

- a requirement for pre- and post-development dilapidation reports to be prepared by a suitably qualified structural engineer for surrounding dwellings; and
- a plan of management and complaint process for unacceptable vibration impacts on amenity, deposition of rock, or damage to property further elaborating on the monitoring proposals set out in paragraph 3.5.3 of the EIS and imposing a requirement to monitor blasting at both of our client's proximate dwellings.

Noise and amenity impacts

While the proponents' acoustic assessment seeks to demonstrate compliance with applicable criteria, there is an inherent level of unpredictability in the modelling. Proposed noise mitigation measures are also vague and unenforceable. For example, in section 3.5.5 of the EIS, it is proposed that "*all practical measures will be used to silence construction equipment*".

There is also an insufficient explanation as to why noise-generating on-site processing (including crushing) needs to be carried out, and why the quarry cannot proceed without the use of crushers. We are instructed that gravel has been extracted from the site for some decades without the need for blasting or on-site crushing.

Our clients submit that conditions of consent should be imposed requiring compliance with the applicable quantitative noise criteria set out in section 3 of the report. An appropriate management plan should also be required with specific and enforceable requirements for noise mitigation.

Operating hours

The proponent's supporting reports are unsatisfactory when describing operating hours. Examples of this include the following:

- The EIS in some parts refer to operation between 7:00am and 6:00pm on Saturdays and in other parts refers to operation between 7:00am and 1:00pm on Saturdays (page 82 and paragraph 7.3.2).
- The EIS refers to "*maintenance, administration*" occurring between 6:00am and 6:00pm on weekdays and 6:00am to 4:00pm on weekdays despite those activities not being referred to in key supporting reports (e.g. acoustic and traffic) and without any description of associated vehicle movements or a description of what activities constitute "maintenance"

- The EIS seeks to provide exceptions to those operating hours in “*exceptional circumstances*” which are not properly defined and described to include repairs to public roads and infrastructure.

Having regard to the above, the proposed operating hours are unclear. In any event, given the proximity to our client’s residential use, and the inevitable impact on that use, the operating hours are excessive.

There is also concern about the level of activity in the early hours of the day. For example, the largest number of vehicle movements are projected to occur between 7:00am and 8:00am. Paragraph 4.1 of the supporting traffic report provides that “*maximum number of peak hour trips can be expected at the start of the daily shift (first hour) [w]here trucks will be more than likely be parked up from the end of the previous shift.*”

Our clients submit that the operating hours ought to be limited to:

- 8:00am to 5:00pm on weekdays.
- No weekend operation.
- Our client objects to blasting being permitted in any form. If, despite that objection, it is permitted, the proposed blasting hours should be further refined to ensure blasting is limited to a maximum of one per day (as proposed in the EIS) following notification being provided to the neighbours including our client (as also proposed in the EIS). Blasting should also only occur within a 3 hour nominated time window on any weekday.

Traffic

Given the proposed capacity, the projected number of vehicle movements is very high, noting the projection of 120 truck trips a day and an additional 20 daily trips for staff and contractors.

Our clients are concerned about the impact on traffic given that the proposed driveway intersection is located in proximity to a curved and undulating section of the Highway with unsatisfactory sight lines. We are instructed that B-doubles and road trains regularly use the Highway and there are also two school bus routes. Under existing conditions, the proponent’s traffic report demonstrates at paragraph 7.2 that there have been four reported vehicle accidents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed access way since 2018, which is considered to be a high number given the area involved. Those statistics give further objective weight to our clients’ safety concerns.

As set out in the **Annexure**, our clients consider that the quarry and access road would be better located at an alternative location where that is not an issue.

It is submitted that the additional large number of vehicle movements at the proposed driveway intersection will result in unacceptable safety risks and inconvenience to Highway users.

Our clients consider that vehicles using the Highway will inevitably need to slow down to accommodate heavy vehicles regularly turning into and out of the driveway. A minor road widening is proposed with no proposed turning lanes to address this issue. It is submitted that the proponent's suggestion of incorporating W5-22 Sign Faces within 150 metres of the approach to the intersection is an inadequate band-aid type solution to the issue. There does not appear to be any analysis in the supporting reports to demonstrate that vehicles will not need to slow down to facilitate the use of the intersection. Serious consideration of the issue is warranted particularly given the long lifespan of the development.

Our clients consider that sight lines are insufficient and in any event the proponent's supporting traffic report concedes that they are likely to be non-compliant in the future. Section 7.4 of the report provides that "*[t]here maybe [sic] some restriction in available sight distance to the south into the future where the existing vegetation located within the private property may encroach into the sight distance envelope*". This is far from acceptable for a development projected to have a life span of at least 25 years.

Conclusion

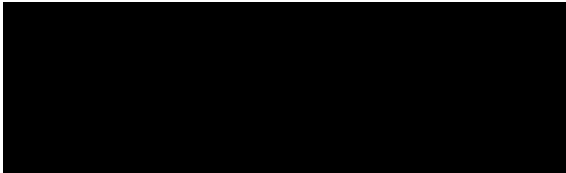
The scope of our client's concerns cannot be understated. The proponent's own supporting reports demonstrate a concerning lack of information and non-compliances.

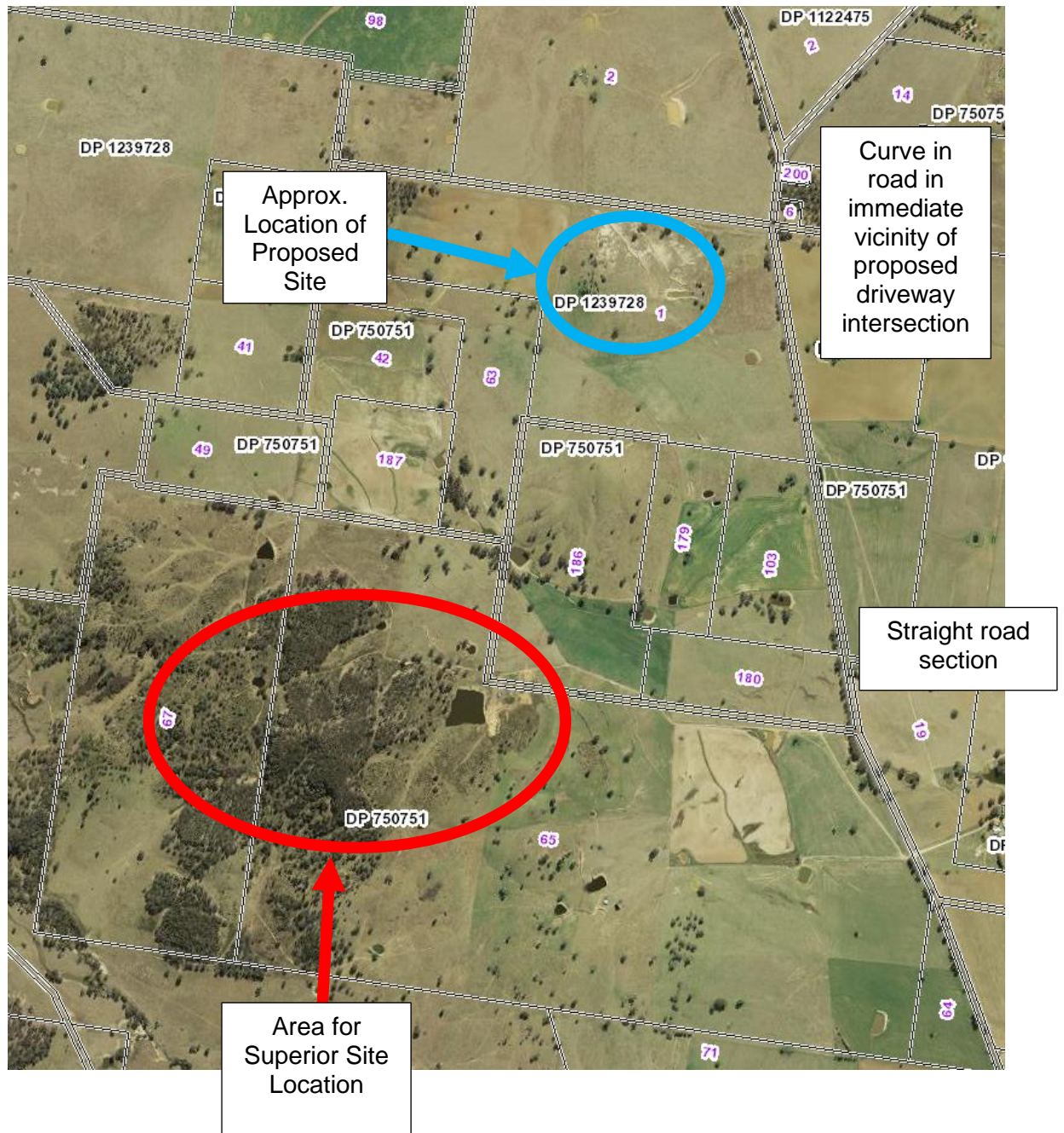
Our client's position is that the Site is unsuitable.

If, despite our clients' submission, Council considers that the Site ought to be able to facilitate the proposed use, then the development ought to be reduced in volume and intensity and the fundamental issues identified above with non-compliance and lack of information should be addressed. These concerns are symptomatic of an overdevelopment.

It appears that the application has been prepared with a view to maximising financial returns by seeking to push the boundaries on the merits of the application. It is submitted that the proponent cannot reasonably expect to pursue a development of this scale, with a significant volume and negligible setback to our client's boundary, while also failing to properly investigate potential impacts and seeking approval despite projected non-compliances, several of which could have significant adverse impacts on our clients' properties, amenity and public safety.

Yours faithfully





13 January 2025

General Manager Mid Western Regional Council
PO Box 156 MUDGEE NSW 2850

Dear Ms Draper,

**DA0070/2025, GULGONG QUARRY PROJECT, PROPOSED QUARRY LOT 1 DP 1239728,
No.1848 CASTLEREAGH HIGHWAY, GULGONG NSW**

objects to DA0070/2025 for the following reasons:

1. The project is specifically for supporting wind, solar, BESS and Transmission proposed or approved projects, virtually all of which were/are overwhelmingly opposed by the residents of Gulgong and by others, including the MWRC and Warrumbungle Council.
2. The implied \$20 billion in private investment for the local economy stated by the Proponent is estimated to be about \$17b (85%) of imported components. Much of the remaining \$3b will be sourced from outside the region (earth works, equipment and component transport, overseas workers, etc). The Central West residents will actually receive very little economic benefit from these "investments", but they will heavily subsidise these projects through their taxes, ever-increasing electricity bills, and interest payments on government debt, which their children and grandchildren will have to pay off.
3. The Proponent stated 1800-5000 jobs would be supported by the wind/solar/BESS/transmission projects during peak construction. While at variance to the 7000 construction jobs that the MWRC identified, we do know that almost every job will be filled by imported workers (mainly from overseas) housed in self-contained labour camps. Little local employment will result during construction and especially during operation. In fact, net job losses will occur due to the cumulative loss of agricultural land, which will reduce the demand the resources previously required to support the industry as well as tourism.
4. The project is expected to produce 350,000 tonnes of quarry materials annually. This is approximately 38 one-way truck movements per day or 9,460 thirty-seven tonne truck and dog loads a year, potentially for up to 13 years. All these 76 two-way movements daily will use the Castlereagh Highway and local roads. Increased road accidents, increased animal strikes, increased car windscreen

damage, increased road damage (increased car and trailer wheel and undercarriage damage) will be the result. Gulgong has already experienced the rapid damage done to local roads by non-local water trucks using them, even though we were assured by the developer they would not.

5. Blasting and the use of heavy machinery and trucks will produce significant noise throughout the working periods and for several years. Studies have concluded, including by the CSIRO, that frequent and extended loud noise negatively impacts both farm/domestic animals and wildlife. Livestock may become stressed and aggressive and yield lower weights. Wildlife are driven from their nesting and feeding areas, so reducing the biodiversity of the area.

Conclusion

The specific purpose of the proposed quarry project is to support wind/solar/BESS and transmission projects that are overwhelmingly not supported by the community of Gulgong and others. Figure 1 on page 4 of the EIS Covering Letter clearly identifies the massive intrusion of these projects on Gulgong area and the destruction they will cause to our appeal to tourists, our rural life-style, our wildlife and our future viability as an exceptional historic town.

The proposed quarry project will bring no net economic benefit to Gulgong, will result in net job losses, and will cause damage to roads, vehicles and animals.

DA0070/2025 should not be approved.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To:
Subject:
Date:

Council

DA0070/2025, PROPOSED EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY (QUARRY) LOT 1 DP 1239728, No.1848 CASTLEREAGH HIGHWAY, TALLAWANG NSW 2852 OBJECTION SUBMISSION
Thursday, 16 January 2025 4:18:23 PM

General Manager
Mid-Western Regional Council
PO Box 156 MUDGEE NSW 2850
By email, council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au

Dear General Manager,

Regarding DA0070/2025, PROPOSED EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY (QUARRY) LOT 1 DP 1239728, No.1848 CASTLEREAGH HIGHWAY, TALLAWANG NSW 2852.

There are no benefits whatsoever for the local Gulgong Community, Mid-Western Shire, Central West or NSW/Australia from this Proposed Extractive Industry (Quarry) project - with all of the serious/irreversible RenewaBULL Public Health & Safety impacts of extensive, widespread PFAS & other Toxic Contamination that this Quarry is to enable, along with the suffering & hardship caused by unreliable, unaffordable, inefficient, intermittent, weather dependent reliance on fraught Chinese components that are already causing cruel Energy Poverty, Cost of Living Crisis, Food Insecurity, Economic Collapse & a National Security Nightmare.

Claims of minimal ecological/human effects from ongoing dust & blasting/traffic noise, transport/traffic impacts & wildly exaggerated economic benefit can only be described as fanciful, unsubstantiated by practical reality & contrived by the proponent.

One only has to recall the personal horror of months on end of chronic distress from relentless jack hammering for industrialised Solar posts & the terrifying, three B-Double rollovers within 6 weeks - on good roads - all destined for Gulgong's Stubbo Solar - all carting UNETHICAL UYGHUR SLAVE LABOUR LINKED JA SOLAR PANELS - all driven by INEXPERIENCED VISY DRIVERS.

There are in fact NO opportunities for regional communities from the RenewaBULL Energy this project is based on as - by design - it's a FAKE GREEN SWINDLE FACTORY GRIFT & PONZI SCHEME/SCAM of ECOCIDAL Industrialised Wind/Solar Electricity Generating Works & filthy, FIRE Hazardous Toxic BESS - unjustly depriving pretty & unique rural communities of their far superior, naturally attractive, healthy & appealing rural vistas & character - replacing these wonderful areas with the Antithesis of 'Protecting Nature' & 'Caring for Country.'

In no way whatsoever, does this plan or it's purpose "better preserve local soil, air quality, water and biodiversity as well as liveability" nor genuinely boost the local economy or job creation in the long term - as the vital agricultural industries & their plethora of associated businesses are displaced by fly-by-night Reckless RenewaBULL Ruination.
https://assets.nationbuilder.com/alexgreenwich/pages/9061/attachments/original/1551394230/Independents_Coal_Transition_Premier_REP_190226_tnl.pdf

The severe, widespread storm damage in NSW - from the 15th January 2025 ongoing - sends a clear warning to Government Dictators, Regulators, Planners, Approving Bodies, Developers, Hosts & Bullying BIG Beneficiary TransGrid - against the continuation of fanciful reliance on actively Experimenting with people's lives & livelihoods - as the Government, non-Independent AEMO & self-serving TransGrid are doing in destroying our essential Electricity Service & replacing it with a 'CRASH TEST DUMMY' - based on Vested Interests & delusional, fragile, weather dependent Industrialised Solar/Wind/BESS JUNK - which clearly failed abysmally at Broken Hill ->

As we have clearly seen proven at Broken Hill recently "Wind and Solar are worse than useless in a crisis like this, because it's detrimental to having a consistent power supply," Mayor Tom Kennedy said.

"I'd hate to see what happens in the capital cities in a similar crisis."

<https://joannenova.com.au/2024/10/650m-in-renewable-energy-didnt-save-broken-hill-from-days-of-blackouts>

The enormous Biosecurity, Public Health & Safety Risks - compromising human & animal lives - posed by unregulated activities - including housing thousands of itinerant workers in random, unsanitary, overflowing Camps - forced midst productive Agricultural areas that require strict Biosecurity conditions to be adhered to - using flimsy, flippable Demountables - is an accident waiting to happen eg. Four people were hospitalised at Wagga Wagga 15/1/25 from a Demountable flipping during stormy/windy weather at Bomen.

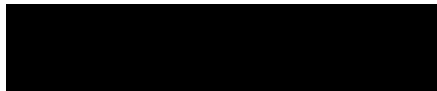
Typically, any damage to RenewaBULL infrastructure like the nearby 500,000 Toxic classed PFAS Coated Jinko Solar & Canadian Solar panels at Bomen, Wagga Wagga or the 1.6 Million Toxic PFAS Contaminating Solar Panels forced on the long suffering Culcairn/Walla Walla Community or obnoxious Beryl Solar with its highly Toxic, FIREProne, Cadmium Telluride Solar Panel Curse - located over vital a Water Aquifer - all goes neglectfully unreported by the complicit mainstream media - especially & so hypocritically by the Emergency Public Broadcaster!

54 second video of Wagga Wagga storm damage 15/1/25

<https://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/video/local/x9cdx1a/storm-leaves-trail-of-damage-across-wagga-january-15-2025-the-daily-advertiser/>

AS THERE IS NO PROOF OF ENERGY SECURITY, FOOD SECURITY, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, NATIONAL SECURITY OR INDEED AN OUNCE OF COMMON SENSE RESULTING FROM THIS FUTILE, DESTRUCTIVE PLAN - WE OBJECT & DO NOT CONSENT TO THIS QUARRY - DA0070/2025.

IT IS AGAINST OUR WILL & THERE IS NO SOCIAL LICENCE!



To:

[Council](#)

Subject:

DA0070/2025 - Proposed Extractive Industry (Quarry)

Date:

Wednesday, 15 January 2025 3:45:12 PM

DA0070/2025 - Proposed Extractive Industry (Quarry)

I object to the quarry proposed at 1848 Castlereagh Highway, Tallawang. I have not had sufficient time to read through all the documentation but I am most concerned about the road, transport and traffic impacts, the noise impacts and issues arising from potential blasting.

The documentation states that "It is estimated that the future proposed quarry may generate up to a maximum of 60 laden quarry trucks per day." That is a large increase in traffic, specifically heavy vehicles, for a rural area, even along the highway. Cumulative impacts from large scale renewable energy infrastructure projects must be taken into consideration.

Also stated in the application documents: "Blasting will be strictly controlled and monitored in order to achieve compliant levels of ground vibration and airblast overpressure at the nearest rural dwellings."

"Accurate modelling of blasting cannot be undertaken given the current uncertainty of the surrounding soil landscape."

It is of particular concern that the modelling is not considered accurate. Will the applicant, and any authorities involved in the possible approval of this project, be held responsible for any damage to property infrastructure, and/or dwellings in the case of unforeseen impacts? Who will be responsible for monitoring aforementioned potential impacts?



To:

[Council](#)

Subject:

Attention Hannah Draper, town planner

Date:

Thursday, 16 January 2025 9:27:55 PM

General Manager Mid-Western Regional Council PO Box 156 MUDGEE NSW 2850

Dear Ms Draper,

Re: DA0070/2025 – Gulgong Quarry Project, Proposed Quarry, Lot 1 DP 1239728, No. 1848 Castlereagh Highway, Gulgong NSW I vehemently () formally object to DA0070/2025 for the following reasons:

1. Purpose of the Project The proposed quarry project is explicitly intended to support wind, solar, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and transmission projects. These projects have been overwhelmingly opposed by residents of Gulgong and other affected communities, as well as by the Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) and Warrumbungle Council.

2. Economic Discrepancies The Proponent claims that the project will contribute \$20 billion in private investment to the local economy. However, approximately \$17 billion (85%) of this amount consists of imported components. Most of the remaining \$3 billion will be sourced from outside the region (e.g., earthworks, equipment, transportation, and overseas workers). Central West residents will see little direct economic benefit but will heavily subsidize these projects through taxes, higher electricity bills, and government debt, which will burden future generations.

3. Employment Impacts The Proponent estimates 1,800 to 5,000 jobs will be supported during peak construction, though the MWRC previously identified 7,000. Regardless, most of these jobs will be filled by non-local workers—primarily from overseas—living in self-contained labor camps. Local employment opportunities will be minimal. Furthermore, the project will lead to net job losses in agriculture due to reduced farmland availability and the resulting decline in demand for resources supporting agriculture and tourism.

4. Traffic and Road Safety The project's production of 350,000 tonnes of quarry materials annually will result in significant road usage, including approximately 38 one-way truck movements daily (76 two-way movements), equating to 9,460 truck and dog loads annually for up to 13 years. This heavy traffic on the Castlereagh Highway and local roads will increase road accidents, animal strikes, windscreen damage, and road wear, leading to greater vehicle repair costs and infrastructure maintenance burdens. Previous assurances about minimal road impact from other projects have not been honored, as evidenced by the extensive damage caused by water trucks in the area.

5. Noise Pollution and Environmental Impact Blasting, heavy machinery, and truck operations will produce significant and sustained noise throughout the project's duration. Studies, including those by CSIRO, show that prolonged loud noise negatively affects livestock, wildlife, and domestic animals. Livestock may experience stress, reduced productivity, and aggressive behavior, while wildlife may abandon nesting and feeding areas, leading to a decline in biodiversity.

Conclusion

The primary purpose of the proposed quarry project is to facilitate wind, solar, BESS, and transmission projects, which are strongly opposed by the Gulgong community and neighboring councils.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Covering Letter (Figure 1, page 4) highlights the overwhelming scale of these projects and their destructive impact on the Gulgong area's tourism appeal, rural lifestyle, wildlife, and future sustainability as a historic town. This project will not deliver any meaningful economic benefit to Gulgong, will result in net job losses, and will cause significant damage to local roads, vehicles, and animal populations.

For these reasons, DA0070/2025 should be rejected.

Be on the right side of history.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To:

[REDACTED]

[Council](#)

Subject:

Application number DA0070/2025 Proposal Proposed Extractive Industry (Quarry) @ Talinga 1848
Castlereagh Highway TALLAWANG NSW 2852

Date:

Thursday, 16 January 2025 11:47:56 AM

Submission- Objection

To **Hannah Draper,**

I'd like to **submit my objections to the proposed Quarry at Talinga. DA0070/2025**

I have not made any political donations in the last 40 years.

I live [REDACTED] near the junction of the Golden Hwy. When there was blasting at Nullen Rest which is at the junction of the Golden Hwy and the road to Coolah just near the Denison Town Bridge crossing the Talbragar River we experienced cracks in the plaster of our house which is well over 5kms away from the blasting site.

It concerns me that this proposal-

- * It is too close to rural dwellings and there are too many unknowns how the blasting will impact these dwellings.
- * There will be too many heavy vehicles impacting, and congesting, our roads.
- * Who, and when, will repair work be done on the roads that will be travelled on?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

16 January 2025

Brad Cam
The General Manager
Mid Western Regional Council
PO Box 156
Mudgee NSW 2850

Dear Brad

The [REDACTED] objects to the Gulgong Quarry project
(DA0070/2025 – Lot 1 DP 1239728, 1848 Castlereagh Highway Gulgong)

This project is specifically for supporting wind, solar, BESS and Transmission. Both the project itself and the projects it will support are destroying our environment, our agricultural land and our communities.

This quarry will mine non renewable resources to support unreliable energy projects that will contribute to our energy poverty, cost of living crisis, excessive non-recyclable waste, environmental destruction and add to fire risk while eroding our ability to fight fires given the additional aerial obstacles of transmission and wind towers.

To date we have witnessed developers of projects related to the so called “renewable energy” industry disregard planning consents (Beryl Solar and the poor excuses for not planting screening), put the community at risk with fires (Beryl Solar), produce toxic waste (burnt Beryl Solar panels and the damaged solar panels from three B-Double roll overs destined for Stubbo solar), individual developers have organised for locals to be excluded from ever being engaged by organisations because of some perceived slight (ACEN and their campaign to have Coolah’s one and only suitable contractor for mail delivery be excluded from ever holding a contract with Australia Post). **None of these projects have social licence.**

This project and the projects it supports will put our ground water at risk given the large amount of water required for dust suppression and cement production. Given the amount of diesel being used for land clearing and open cut mining of non renewable resources for sand and gravel, then the ongoing use of diesel for back up generators that every substation, BESS, solar and wind project will require, plus the diesel that residents in the area will require to run their own domestic generators thanks to the

unreliability of wind/solar and short lived BESS....when will diesel supply become difficult for local the existing users?

To date developers related to the wind/solar/BESS/transmission industry have earned themselves a reputation for completely disregarding the residents and the local environment. Not for one minute do we believe that any of the communities in the so called CWO Renewable Energy Zone will have any lasting benefit from any of these developments. More likely we will have our landscape scarred forever and many of our homes will be unliveable.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To:

[REDACTED]

[Council](#)

Subject:

Proposed Extractive Industry (Quarry) @ Talinga 1848 Castlereagh Highway Tallawang

Date:

Sunday, 10 November 2024 2:11:32 PM

Attention Hannah Draper

As a regular traveller and visitor to the Mudgee district, I give my full support for this proposal. My reasons are listed below:

- Employment opportunities would be offered in the fields of technology, practical and mechanical skills, which could lead to improved and upgraded roads and other areas requiring gravel supplies.
- This employment would benefit the districts of Gulgong, Mudgee and Dunedoo in many economic and social ways.
- As the site is a reasonable distance from the towns of Gulgong, Mudgee and Dunedoo noise and machinery movements would not appear to be an issue. This could also relate to the movement of heavy trucks in the built-up areas.
- On studying the environmental and heritage statements in the proposal there appears to be minimal effect on the environment.
- The proposed site for the quarry appears to be strategically located in terms of proximity to the energy infrastructure projects that have been approved or are proposed within the Central West Orana Renewable Zone (CWO-REZ).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: DA0070/2025 - Proposed Extractive Industry (Quarry)
Date: Wednesday, 13 November 2024 2:30:32 PM
Attachments: [Council](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hi Hannah,

I am emailing in regards to the proposed quarry located at Talinga 1848, Castlereagh Highway, Tallawang NSW 2852.

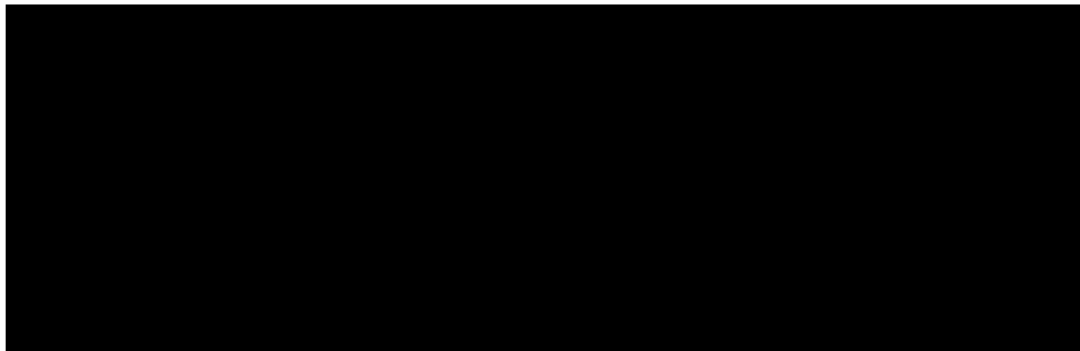
I believe the quarry will add value to the region especially with regards to its location and low environmental impacts.

Due to it's location it provides local economic boost to purchase affordable quarry material which can be desirable for surrounding landowners and future construction programs.

Talinga have already looked to provide work if approved to local jobseekers which also adds value.

I write this email in faith that the proposed quarry be granted to be approved.

Regards



Mr Brad Cam
The General Manager
Mid Western Regional Council
PO Box 156
Mudgee NSW 2850

council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au

20 December 2024

Dear Brad,

**Re: DA0070/2025 Proposed Extractive Industry (Quarry) Talinga 1848 Castlereagh Highway
TALLAWANG NSW 2852**

I am writing to express my support for the above-mentioned proposal. As a local businessman and member of this community, I believe this project holds the ability to benefit both Mudgee and the broader region.

It is my belief that the quarry will support economic growth in the local area, by providing a range of job opportunities for residents, including positions in management, operations, logistics, and support services. Additionally, local businesses supplying goods and services to the quarry will benefit from increased demand, stimulating further economic activity in the Mudgee/Gulgong area.

The construction and operation of the quarry will likely lead to improvements in infrastructure for the Tallawang area, including roads and utilities. These developments will not only support the quarry but also enhance the overall infrastructure of the area, benefiting all locals.

The availability of high-quality materials from a local quarry will likely reduce the cost of construction projects in the region. As a local business owner, I can attest that having access to reliable and affordable materials in the local area is a highly positive outcome for not only earthmoving, but builders, contractors, and developers in the area.

I am confident that the proposed quarry can be moved forward in a way that ensures the above economic benefits for our local area, while maintaining and respecting the surrounding environment. I encourage all relevant parties to carefully consider the highly positive impacts this quarry will have in our community.

