

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

An update from Monaro Rock

July 2026

Public exhibition of the Monaro Rock Quarry Project's Environmental Impact Statement occurred in September 2025. During this period, members of the public, organisations and government agencies had the opportunity to make submissions to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

A total of 502 submissions were received from individuals and organisations. The majority of these objected to the project. We would like to thank all the people who took the time to prepare a submission. We appreciate the time involved in doing this.

Monaro Rock remains committed to the Project and is in the process of responding to the matters raised in submissions and to the advice from Government agencies.

Review of Submissions

The following presents a brief overview of the individual and organisation submissions received by DPHI during the exhibition period.

The majority of submission (95%) objected to the Project for a range of reasons. Submissions were most commonly received from residents who listed their addresses as being in Royalla (44%), Tuggeranong (27%) and Googong (14%). Other submissions were provided from a range of locations including some in other states. The majority of supportive submissions were from similar suburbs, reflecting the local interest in the Project

Air quality was the most frequent matter raised in submissions. 63% of submissions raised concerns about dust which was also associated with silica dust generation (61%) and respiratory health risks (54%). Other key matters raised in submissions included the following.

- Traffic and road safety associated with the use of Monaro Highway (53%)
- Impacts to local biodiversity values (43%)
- Noise generation (41%)
- Risks to existing community lifestyle and character (36%)

The majority of submissions supporting the Project noted the local economic benefits, including jobs that the Project would contribute and the need to ensure resource availability into the future.

All of the matters raised in submissions, reflected the feedback heard from the community during consultation sessions.

Koala Sighting in Theodore

Monaro Rock is aware that a Koala was sighted in the Canberra suburb of Theodore last week and have immediately sought the advice of an ecologist on the matter. The sighting is rare for the area and wholly unexpected. Field surveys undertaken for the Project's biodiversity assessments in NSW and ACT did not identify Koala or signs of Koala presence such as scats or scratches. For these assessments, Capital Ecology had concluded that the Koala was unlikely to be present and referred to the lack of previous records to support this. The below map shows the sighting records for Koala within 10km of the project.

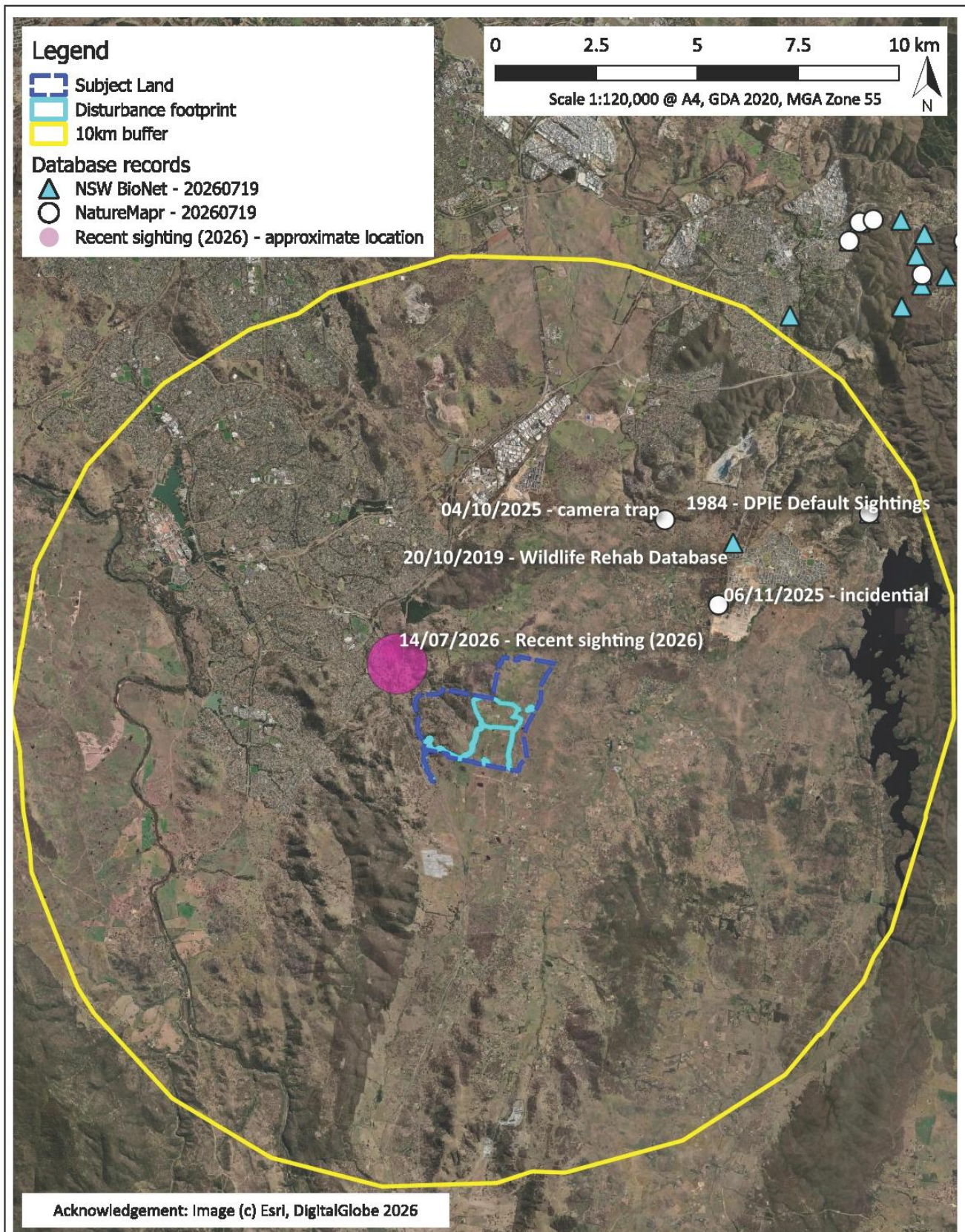
The recent sighting changes the information used to assess the likely presence and risk to Koala from the development of the quarry. The location of the recent sighting indicates that Koala may have moved through vegetation along the Monaro Highway corridor or crossed the highway from the Melrose Nature Reserve. The reserve is directly adjacent to the property on which the Quarry would be located.

We have engaged with the ACT and NSW governments to inform them that we will be undertaking further targeted survey for the Koala in coming months and will update our assessments to reflect the outcomes.

The Monaro Rock Quarry Project is intended to be a long-term operation that supports local and regional development through the supply of construction materials. Our aim has always been to become a valued member of the community. We have carefully planned the project being mindful of balancing the proximity to residences, biodiversity outcomes and a practical operational approach. Carefully considering risks to a species that was thought to be absent from the area is part of that approach.

It is important to recognise that we will not have answers on the Koala immediately. The surveys require detailed investigation. We will keep the community informed as we receive the results.





Preliminary Figure 1. Koala Database Records

Capital Ecology Project No: 3289
Drawn by: S. Reid
Date: 20 July 2026

**Presented data are preliminary
and subject to revision**



What have we been doing?

We appreciate there have been comments in the community on the length of time it has taken to respond to the matters raised in submissions. Our investigations have continued and include the following in summary.

- Heritage NSW and ACT Heritage have been consulted on the outcomes of our cultural and historic heritage assessments. As a result we have agreed to undertake subsurface investigations of certain areas where physical disturbance was planned for the Project.
- We have consulted with the NSW EPA on water management within the Quarry and updated our strategy to account for possible large rainfall events consistent with climate change predictions.
- We have undertaken further surveys for the Canberra Spider Orchid and bat species at the request of the NSW Government and have developed a species-specific management approach for potential indirect impacts to the Small Purple-pea (*Swainsona recta*) that is located in the rail corridor for the Goulburn Bombala Rail Line.
- Both the noise and air quality assessments have been updated to address comments from the NSW and ACT governments and to increase mitigation for road construction and use where the Project would be closest to our neighbours.

The outcomes of each of these assessments will be presented in the Submissions Report for the Project.

What happens next?

We are currently finalising a comprehensive Submissions Report that will present a response to the matters raised in submissions by government, organisations and the public and will include updated technical assessments (described above).

We are liaising with the ACT government on the appropriate pathway to apply for development consent for the construction and use of the intersection and short road to access the Quarry.

The Project has been classified as a controlled action in NSW and the ACT and will require approval under the commonwealth EPBC Act 1999. An approval under the EPBC Act will not be assessed until after the NSW and ACT approvals are determined.

What can you expect?

We expect to have our Submissions Report completed in July 2026 and once this provided to the NSW Government it will be made publicly available. The assessments to support the application in the ACT are largely complete and will be progressed once we have advice from the Conservator of Flora and Fauna on its consideration of environmental risks.

We will shortly be sending an invite to registered email addresses to attend a further virtual presentation on the Project that will summarise the outcomes of our review of submissions and the updated outcomes of assessment. We encourage all who wish to attend to register via the Company website (www.monarorock.com.au)



Scoping of the Project

Preparation and submission of a scoping report to commence consultation with the NSW Government on the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) which prescribe the information that must be included in the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



Preparation of the EIS

The proposed project is described in detail alongside review of existing conditions and the strategic and legislative context for the development. Baseline monitoring data is then used to inform technical assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the project.



Public Exhibition

The completed EIS will be publicly exhibited for at least 28 days, during which time the community is given opportunity to provide further feedback directly to the NSW Government.



WE ARE HERE

Response to Submissions

Monaro Rock will be requested to prepare a submissions report, responding to the matters raised by Government and community stakeholders.



Assessment by Government

The NSW Department of Planning will lead the NSW Government assessment of the project, culminating in an assessment report.



Determination

The project will then be evaluated by the consent authority and a decision made to approve or refuse the development application.

Indicative approval pathway

On this page we have provided a summary of the planning approval pathway for the project so you can see where we are up to in that process. We are currently preparing a Submissions Report that responds to the comments received on the project.

We welcome your feedback

R.W. Corkery & Co. will continue to manage the approval processes for the project.

Please contact our project representative Nick Warren on 0437 635 975 or nick@rwcorkery.com with your queries.

Community updates

The Monaro Rock website at www.monarorock.com.au is where you will find fact sheets, FAQs and other project information, as well as a "contact us" link enabling you to get in touch with us directly.

A Community Summary of the EIS is also available from the website and presents an abridged version of the EIS outcomes.

If you have friends, neighbours, colleagues or others who may benefit from these updates please encourage them to visit the website and sign up to receive our newsletter.