

FAQ - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the quarry still going ahead I thought it had disappeared? Why is the quarry an issue now?

The quarry site has recently been bought by new local businessman or associated entities (shell companies) who have also recently bought other local ventures in the Tathra area and Bega Valley as far as Bombala. They are determined to push ahead with the quarry.

Bega Valley Council have indicated that they will be making a decision very soon, likely at the next council meeting where 9 elected councillors will decide on whether it will be approved or not. Although the DA has been with the council for several years, it is still current and there has been no public consultation.

You can read the DA here

We need your voice to let the elected councillors know that there is still strong community opposition and the community does not want this quarry.

What are the main issues with the proposed Bournda Quarry?



Threatened Wildlife

- Home to species listed as Vulnerable to Extinction:
- Glossy Black Cockatoo – culturally significant and dependent on local Allocasuarina trees.
- Gang-gang Cockatoo
- Yellow-bellied Glider (recorded in fauna surveys)
- Threatened plants: Pultenaea pedunculata, Pomaderris bodalla, Astrotricha crassifolia
- Destruction of habitat and feed trees threatens these species' survival.



Tourism & Community Values

- Tourism is the Bega Valley's largest industry, generating \$490 million per year.
- Visitors come for our wildlife, clean beaches, and quiet natural beauty - the

same values locals treasure.

- 11,000 residents and visitors have already signed a petition opposing the quarry.
- Bournda is world-renowned among birdwatchers, (bird route no.1) with 122+ species recorded.

Dust, Noise & Health Impacts

- The quarry would blast and crush rhyolite (70% silica) — creating toxic silica dust, the leading cause of silicosis and lung cancer.
- Fine dust can travel up to 40km— affecting workers, residents, and towns along the haulage route (Tura Beach, Kalaru, Merimbula, Bega).
- The nearest home is only 1.1 km away.
- Past workers, including one in an office at a quarry site, have suffered fatal silica-related illnesses despite safety measures.
- Bega Valley Shire Council has a duty of care to protect public health.

Water & Contamination Risks

- Dust suppression needs large water volumes — the site's dam is inadequate.
- Overflow from failings dams during rain will pollute Jellat Jellat Creek and the Bega River system, our drinking water source.

Noise & Lifestyle Impacts

- The area is rural and peaceful, with small farms, horses, and recreation such as birdwatching, bike riding and wildlife photography.
- Blasting, crushing and processing material onsite and heavy trucks hauling material would destroy this tranquillity and harm animals' sensitive hearing.

A Better Future

- The land could instead support a low-impact eco-development — affordable, nature-sensitive housing and eco-tourism (e.g. mountain bike trails).
- This would enhance the area's environmental and community values — not destroy them.