



Memo to: Mayor Watton

Copy to: All Councillors, General Manager, Directors, Senior Leadership Group and Communications & Engagement Team

From: Paul McLachlan, Director Works and Infrastructure

Subject: Proposed Bluestone Hardrock Quarry (Elderslie and Glendon Brook) Project

Date: 18 February 2026

Reference: CRM 2128/2026 - DOC2026/016482

Dear Mayor Watton

I refer to your enquiry on behalf of a resident regarding the Proposed Bluestone Hardrock Quarry (Elderslie and Glendon Brook) Project.

Mayor Watton -

Have received a few complaints from residents concerning the below project (Proposed Bluestone Hardrock Quarry (Elderslie and Glendon Brook) Project). Primarily in singleton LGA, however trucks come through regularly via Cessnock. Is there anything in place for:

- Cessnock to receive road repairs*
- other avenues trucks could go down*
- anything else relevant for councillors / residents to be aware of re impacts of this project, what mitigation strategies have been put in place etc*

Cr Pascoe -

I've been receiving a number of complaints about the quarry in Elderslie, can someone please provide a bit more updated information on this? I remember a small discussion based on councillor Palmowski's motion last year but can't recall if this is in our LGA and if the EIS was due yet?

Councillors will recall this matter was previously raised by Councillor Palmowski as a Notice of Motion in March 2025, which was deferred until such time as the application was lodged.

- Council officers have further investigated the subject matter and advise as follows: This project is a State Significant Development Application (SSDA), to be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW DPHI).
- A SSDA is not lodged for this project to date. However, NSW DPHI have issued their requirements for the lodgement of a future SSDA, known as 'Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements'.
- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is currently being prepared by the Proponent, and the Proponent's consultant has commenced community consultation.
- The project is within the Singleton LGA, however will utilise roads in the Cessnock LGA.

Further details, including the pre lodgement 'Scoping Report' prepared by the Proponent is available on the NSW DPHI website, see link –

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/bluestone-hardrock-quarry-project-formerly-pittman-quarry>

Council have provided early comments to the Proponent's consultants, outlining Council's expectation that impacts in the Cessnock LGA be assessed in the future EIS. However no detailed studies or assessments have been completed by the Proponent at this stage.

It is understood that the Proponent's consultants have held community information sessions, and have created a website, which provides information on how the community can provide comments to be considered in the preparation of the EIS. Prior to lodgement of the SSDA, submissions can be made directly with the Proponent through the project website, see link –

<https://bluestonehardrock.com.au/>.

Once the SSDA is lodged with DPHI, Council and the community will be able to lodge submissions to the DPHI Major Projects website.

As part of this initial stage, the aim is to identify impacts on Council infrastructure and assets within the LGA and provide advice on how they should be assessed and addressed. Council will provide the strongest possible advice to protect all Council owned assets and minimise/reduce the impact on the proposed haul routes. As part of the EIS, the Proponent will be required to provide a detailed Traffic Impact Assessment, which considers heavy vehicle volumes, potential impacts on the Asset Condition/Lifecycle, and propose measure to mitigate these impacts in consultation with the road authorities.

Below is a summary of the likely Haul Route to the Hunter Expressway via Elderslie Road at Branxton.

Springvale Road - Not within the Cessnock LGA

Stanhope Road - Not within the Cessnock LGA

Elderslie Road - is a regional road and is maintained by Council, there is an estimated 600m section of road within the Cessnock LGA. This segment is located from the Singleton LGA boundary on Elderslie Road and Maitland Street/New England Highway intersection.

Maitland Street / New England Highway – is a regional road and is maintained by Council, there is an estimated 1.4km section within the Cessnock LGA. This segment is located from Elderslie Road to the New England Highway/Wine Country Drive intersection.

Council will continue to engage with DPHI throughout the EIS process to convey our significant concerns regarding the project's impacts.

Wine Country Drive – State Road and operated by Transport for NSW

Hunter Expressway – State Road and operated by Transport for NSW

Please note a copy of this memo will be uploaded to the Council website.