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I am a strong supporter of the proposed Stone Ridge Quarry project near Newcastle, NSW.

As noted in the Department of Planning evaluation, The construction sector is a key contributor to economic growth in NSW, employing approximately 400,000 workers. Competitive and reliable supplies of quarry products are critical to the NSW construction industry.

The project has the potential to support local industries by providing a reliable source of high-quality materials. The construction and manufacturing sectors, in particular, will benefit from the availability of locally sourced aggregates, reducing the need for long-distance transportation and lowering associated costs and emissions. This local sourcing not only supports regional businesses but also contributes to a more sustainable supply chain.

The project will create local jobs during construction and operation which will benefit the Newcastle region, especially in the context of declining coal mining and coal energy generation in the area.

The Project has been designed to avoid, mitigate and manage biodiversity impacts where practicable. The developer has committed to upgrading roads where required to minimise potential traffic impacts.

Overall, the Stone Ridge Quarry project represents a well-rounded approach to regional development, combining economic, environmental, and industrial benefits that will positively impact Newcastle and its surrounding areas.