

30th July 2021

Dear Sir,

Martins Creek Quarry Expansion - Application No. SSD-6612

Submission of Objection to Development

I am a resident of _____, and now provide a submission in support of my objection to the above project proposed by Buttai Gravel Pty Ltd. (Daracon)

I have made no reportable political donations in the past two years.

I have wondered if there is any point in sending a submission re the above but have decided at this eleventh hour to make one last attempt in the hope that the 'powers that be' will see sense and act responsibly with all the 'facts', and I emphasise the word 'facts', at their disposal.

It beggars belief that it has taken 7 years of illegal operations at this quarry, culminating in a Court case proving this illegality, during which time the size of the quarry has been illegally doubled in size, destroying native koala and other fauna and flora habitat, and subjected residents, not only in the immediate vicinity but on the designated truck routes, to noise, dust and above all numerous safety issues in the village of Paterson. I might point out that had an average citizen broken the law at a fraction of the degree that Daracon has over theses past 7 years, then the relative penalties would have been considerably larger than just the court fees, hardly a penalty for a company that had made millions from illegal operations over that time. So one wonders why an extension of operations at the Quarry would even be open to consideration by this review board.

On a personal level of course I have experienced increased dust and noise levels depending on the wind direction, plus vibrations when there is blasting but my main concern is one of safety and the future of Paterson itself.

It doesn't need a traffic engineer to recognise the inherent danger of huge truck movements negotiating a 90 degree turn within only a couple of hundred yards of a rail crossing while encompassing a petrol service station, a cafe and a hairdresser on one side of the road plus a busy post office and public house on the other. There are also School buses that have pickup and drop off spots in close proximity.

Nor does it need a noise or road engineer to understand the high noise levels, vibrations and resulting damage that ensue for all properties and businesses plus damage to the road surfaces along the route through this main village thoroughfare. As a thoroughfare from Maitland through to Dungog it already carries a lot of 'through traffic', as one would expect, but this is increased to a completely untenable and unsafe level with Quarry truck movements.

In my humble opinion, this application by Daracon should be turned down in its entirety.

Restoration work should be carried out on the Quarry to, at the very least, restore the natural habitat that was destroyed when illegally doubling the size of this Quarry. Preferably the Quarry should be closed down completely on account of all the illegal activity that has taken place and which our local community has had to endure for the last 7 years so that finally Paterson can be allowed to return to some sort of normality.

I am hopeful that this time common sense will prevail and that Paterson will be allowed to survive as the alternative will only result in the destruction of this scarce little historical village plus an ongoing nightmare for residents with the noise and disruption of constant truck movements bringing the daily fear for the safety of young and old alike as they navigate the dangers inflicted on them so unfairly.

Yours faithfully,