

**Director – Resource Assessments, Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124**

Objection to Expansion Martins Creek Quarry – Application No SSD-6612

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to object to Daracon and Umwelt's amended development application for the expansion of Martins Creek Quarry. If approved the hourly and daily scale of trucking operations proposed from the site will see a return of the trucking madness residents experienced between 2007 and 2019.

If approved, the quality of life of a large number of people will be adversely affected. This written submission will concentrate on Bolwarra Heights and the detrimental impact 280 truck movements per day will have on this area. This will include early morning impact due to sleep disturbance from truck noise, the loss of residential and large lot scenic amenity and the increasingly dangerous conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.

Bolwarra Heights, especially along Tocal Road, has traditionally been a 'rural lifestyle' area. The sort of ambience associated with this style of outer urban development is not compatible with having the proposed level of heavy traffic passing through the community each day. The physical presence of trucks would be enormous and the noise relentless.

We bought land off Lang Drive for the large lots and semi-rural outlook. A major impact for us will be the danger faced every time we want to access Tocal Road. Large trucks hurtling along at 80 kilometres per hour, if they are sticking to the speed limit, and even faster if they are not, will make it very difficult to turn safely onto Tocal Road. The only means offered for reducing truck impacts on amenity is via a code of conduct for drivers. Daracon has in the past stated at a public meeting that they have limited control over the actions of contract drivers.

The uneven road surfaces cause the full trucks to rumble and grind while the empty ones clatter as they pass over the unevenly patched surface. After rain, in particular, deep potholes form and these are enlarged by the constant stream of trucks, until they are eventually patched by Council, adding further to the uneven pavement. This roadwork is paid for by ratepayers, not by the culprits causing most of the damage.

Apart from noise, high levels of truck flow rates through our community also have real impacts on residents because of the dust and diesel fumes. Diesel fumes are a well-recognised source of carcinogenic particulate matter. Much of the product transported for construction purposes has been mixed with other materials and is being transported in open trucks loosely covered. The health and wellbeing of residents living along the haulage corridors must be considered a serious issue. It has been widely documented that constant road noise is a contributing factor to anxiety, stress, depression, high blood pressure and other cardiovascular conditions.

The application to increase quarry output should be rejected for pedestrian and vehicle safety. The section of Tocal Road between Maitland Vale Road and Paterson Road was originally built as a minor access road to local farms but it is now the main road to the Paterson and

Dungog areas. It is narrow and congested and not suitable for fully laden quarry trucks travelling at 60 kilometres per hour. The pedestrian footpath on one side has the pedestrians walking within one metre of these large trucks and there are no shoulders to avoid a potential accident. Residents living along this stretch face a nightmare every time they want to exit their properties and enter the traffic on Tocal Road. Leaving Tocal Road to turn into their properties is equally hazardous, particularly if there is approaching traffic and that traffic is coming at speed.

The amended development application should also be rejected because of the combined cumulative impact of both Martins Creek and Brandy Hill Quarries. Increased truck movements from both will meet at the intersection of Tocal and Paterson Roads, already busy because of the petrol station located there. The vast increase in trucks proposed by the Martins Creek Quarry expansion would see this intersection and the roads south extremely congested and dangerous. Entering and exiting the petrol station would become much more dangerous with queues of traffic forming on both roads.

The residents of the Hunterglenn housing estate already have difficulty at peak travel times exiting the estate, particularly if they need to turn right across the traffic. The additional trucks coming from both Martins Creek and Brandy Hill will make this almost impossible.

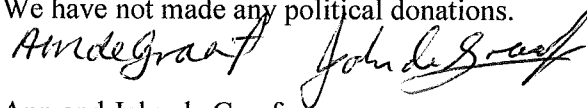
If this amended development application is approved, it will have an adverse impact on the Paterson and Bolwarra Road intersection which is adjacent to Bolwarra Public School and is a major access point to the school. The proposed dramatic increase in heavy vehicle movements will make this already dangerous intersection even more difficult and dangerous than it currently is for everyone associated with the school.

Another business which will be adversely impacted is Tilly's Play and Development Centre, a child care service on Paterson Road, catering for up to 118 children per day. The heightened amount of truck traffic along Paterson Road will cause the families an increased amount of risk when entering and exiting the child care facility, as well as risk to the Bolwarra Primary School children who walk to and from the centre for the school day.

Yet another reason this amended development application should not be approved is that Daracon has shown they cannot be trusted to do the right thing. According to a media release in September 2019, Justice Duggan noted in the Land and Environment Court that Daracon had confirmed during cross examination they had derived income in excess of 100 million dollars from the 'unlawful' use of the quarry since 2012. Why should they be rewarded now when they were prepared to do the wrong thing then? If they are given approval now, who says they won't exceed the agreed amounts as they have before?

We strongly believe Daracon and Umwelt's amended development application for the expansion of Martins Creek Quarry should not be approved because of the enormous impact it will have on the safety and quality of life of all the residents in the surrounding areas. This submission has just focused on Bolwarra Heights because that is the area we are most familiar with but it is not the only area that will be adversely affected.

We have not made any political donations.



Ann and John de Graaf