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Director- Resources Assessment  
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Department of Planning Industry and Environment  
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27<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Re: Martins Creek Quarry (Application SSD 6612)**

I **object** to the proposal and provide reasons for my objection below.

Despite my residential address being some 15 minutes away from the quarry our family property "Hillcrest" is a very near neighbour to the quarry. As such I have real lived experiences growing up on the farm and now as I frequently (at least three times a week) visit Hillcrest seeing my mother who at 91 years of age is still directly involved in activities on the farm.

What I have unfortunately found with the current quarry operator is they make commitments and fail to follow through on them. For example I was at Hillcrest with mum, when they promised to keep us fully informed of the current quarry expansion proposal. There has been no follow-up or information provided to us to keep us informed or updated about the quarry expansion. We also requested to be informed of blasting activities. To date we have not received any information on blasting activities at the quarry.

What I experienced during the period of illegal operations was:-

- Driving out to Hillcrest with a procession of road haulage trucks flying by was certainly not consistent with rural amenity
- All of the local roads were treacherous with the trucks hauling in every direction and often six in procession.
- I stopped less in Paterson to shop or relax with friends due to the excessive truck movements. Why would you stop for a coffee or try to catch up with a friend when you would be covered with exhaust fumes or couldn't hear each other due to the conga line of trucks.
- Finding a safe parking spot or a place to cross the road in Paterson was impossible,
- Crossing off Dungog Road into Hillcrest became quite treacherous due to the constant trucking,
- The dust levels were excessive at Hillcrest both externally and internally, and

- Noise from the crushers and trucks within the operations was very annoying.

I am extremely concerned with the proposed expansion as this is a return of quarrying operations to those experienced during the illegal operation of the quarry.

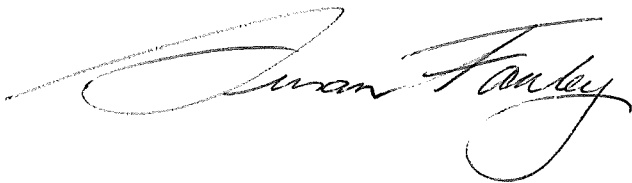
As a long term member of the community I believe approving such an application will be the demise of the historic Martins Creek and Paterson communities and have severe consequences to others living along the haulage route through to East Maitland.

The reason I believe this will be the case are:-

- The haulage in and around Paterson will result in a severe loss of rural amenity,
- The shopping precincts in Paterson and along Melbourne Street East Maitland will loose customers due to congestion, noise ,fumes from the proposed truck haulage,
- Property values in Bolwarra and Bolwarra Heights will be dramatically impacted, due to truck haulage, many of these residences entry points will be straight into a procession of trucks.
- I am very fearful of the impact on the senior citizens as these communities are fractured due to the impact of SSD 6612. In small rural communities the town center is where they contact, socialize and stay connected with life. To take this away from our seniors will potentially lead to mental health issues within our most vulnerable community members.

I grew up watching the ballast trains enter and leave the quarry and I am at a loss as to, WHY the proponent of SSD6612 would choose to DISRUPT and POTENTIALLY DESTROY COMMUNITIES for 25 years with truck haulage, when the railway enters THE property.

I have not made a reportable political donation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Susan Farley', written in black ink.

Regards  
Susan Farley