

Director - Resource Assessments, Planning and Assessment, Department of Planning and Environment, NSW Government.

As a local resident, I wish to oppose the current application by Daracon and Umwelt, to increase production and extraction of gravel from Martins Creek. The Company was found to be mining illegally in 2019, and has since formulated, then modified [slightly] its goals in an unwarranted and spiteful reaction to a legal decision.

The major objection is the EXCESSIVE SCALE of the mine's expansion, which would, the Company claim, necessitate up to 280 truck movements per day, or one truck every 1.5 minutes! This is totally unreasonable and will result in an intolerable increase in noise, aerosol and diesel emissions, visual pollution, continuing road damage, and unsafe driving conditions along all sections of the route. In general terms, it is highly likely the whole area would be spoiled. The historic working village of Paterson would become unworkable. Picturesque Tocal Road, an already high volume traffic route, would be made intolerable by a continuous flow of B-Doubles thundering through the countryside at 100k/h. As well, residents and school children in the built-up streets of Bolwarra Heights would be made less safe by the noise and close presence of traffic. The idea that Daracon can permit truck movements from 6.45 to 6pm five days per week and maybe more, on its own whim, is absolutely unreasonable.

As well, Daracon does not mention what would become of these trucks once they reach the end of the coyly neat map included in the latest "Daracon Update". These 280 trucks are bound to travel along the New England Highway at Melbourne St, East Maitland a highly busy intersection particularly at Peak and school hours. This road is the main Newcastle-Maitland entry-exit route for the ever-burgeoning numbers of people working and living north and south, and is already very overloaded. The trucks will then proceed to clog the commuter drives to Newcastle and thence Sydney, adding enormous traffic bulk and increased travel times throughout the Greater Sydney and Newcastle region.

No Government should be able to seal such a long term deal. Twenty five years is too long to be locked into an arrangement which is so disadvantageous environmentally and geographically to the community. Much can change in that time, which could render the Daracon's modus operandi out of date.

It also unfair and selfish for one section of the community to hold sway over others. We have a democratically elected government which should consider the position and welfare of all those affected in a business deal such as this. It is not the case that "people are never happy with anything"; they just expect to be considered equitably.

A large, professional successful company like Daracon should be able to come up with better, more realistic and smart face-saving concessions than they have to date. Some suggestions and solutions for the minister to consider to render the current proposal more reasonable are-

1. The target goal extraction amount for this project should be reduced. This mine cannot be worked under the current extraction proposal.
2. Daracon should explore other potential mining sites throughout the State. Martin's Creek is not the only gravel site in NSW.

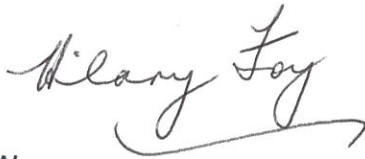
3 . Daracon's revised projected Road Truck movements ,empty and full, should be reduced to no more than one every 30mins. Hours of activity should be limited to between 8am till 4pm Monday to Friday. Weekend trucks, empty and full, should and must be, completely BANNED. NO ESTABLISHED BUILT UP AREA DESERVES THIS!!!!

4.Daracon should taking further advantage of the State -provided rail transport line situated on its doorstep and extend a spur line line to move more workings.

5.The minister's department must undertake constant monitoring of the Company's movements, as well as those of its subcontractors to ensure the company is complying with the agreement.

Yours Sincerely

[Mrs] Hilary Foy

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hilary Foy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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21/6/21