

Director – Resource Assessments
Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

21 November 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

I oppose the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion for the following reasons:

1. Lack of Clarity and Information

I have been unable to find anywhere in the EIS where it states what the quarry is currently permitted to produce. The EIS does say,

‘In May 1999, Dungog Shire Council resolved to accept that the Quarry had continuing use rights for part of Lot 1 DP 1006375 for the processing of material of up to 449,000 tonnes per annum’ (*Appendix B*).

Is 449,000 tonnes the current limit? If not, what is the current limit? In Appendix D, it says,

‘The 12 month period assessed was November 2013 – October 2014. The approximate volume for the period totalled 1.1 million tonnes’.

Did Martins Creek Quarry exceed its limit in the year November 2013 – October 2014 and if so, by how much? If, as it appears, the quarry did exceed its limit what have been the ramifications of this? For example, has the quarry been issued with any fines or ordered to stop production? How much has the quarry produced more recently, in the years 2015 and 2016? How can I and other residents be assured that in the future, the quarry will not exceed its limit?

2. Increase in Noise and Air pollution

The EIS states that there could be a

‘peak rate of 40 laden outbound trucks per hour in the mornings, and a maximum 215 laden trucks leaving the site per day.’

My property adjoins Tocal Road so since these are trucks leaving the quarry, there might be 430 trucks passing my house each day and presumably 80 trucks per hour in the mornings; an average of one truck every 45 seconds. This number of trucks will cause noise and air pollution and will be extremely intrusive. I will not be able to open my windows and doors as it will be too noisy and odorous. How is the quarry planning to compensate the local residents for the proposed noise and disturbance? For example, will they be paying for all the affected residents to have double glazing installed?

3. Safety

As Tocal Road enters Bolwarra Heights, (from Paterson) there is no pedestrian pavement and no cycle path. The road bends several times and this increase in truck movements will

escalate the likelihood of an accident between a truck and a cyclist or pedestrian. Please note that people do currently walk and cycle along this section of road. Rural residential roads are not meant to be used by so many trucks each day. What measures will the quarry put in place to ensure the safety of the local residents? Have they discussed this with local councils and come to an agreement? For example, will they be providing cycle and pedestrian paths distinctly separated from the road? Will they be providing pedestrian crossings near shops and schools?

4. **Excessive Hours**

The proponent wants to increase the hours of operation:

‘dispatch of road transport to 5:30am - 7pm (Monday to Saturday)’.

If trucks are permitted to be leaving the quarry at 5.30 am to 7pm they will be passing my house and passing through other residential areas well before 5.30 am and after 7pm. This is unacceptable and will result in the disturbed sleep of local residents with the likely consequence of ill-health and accidents.

For the above reasons I will be negatively impacted if the above quarry is permitted to expand and believe other residents in the local area will be impacted even greater than me. Therefore please reject the proposal to expand Martins Creek Quarry.

Yours faithfully

Alison Cook

I have not made a reportable political donation