

OBJECTIONS TO MARTINS CREEK QUARRY EXPANSION

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

1. The proposed Quarry expansion will significantly increase heavy truck movements, both empty and full, to an unacceptable level in total movements and extended hours for heavy vehicles on a narrow country road outside our residence on Tocal Road Bolwarra Heights.
2. Noise from the additional vehicle movements, both unloaded and loaded, will result in substantially increased noise levels and reduced amenity in our rural area, particularly in early hours of morning when many people are trying to sleep, and also significantly increasing traffic noise during the day.
3. Increased danger to pedestrians, residents and other road users due to proposed quarry expansion requiring up to 80 heavy truck movements per hour. Our dedicated road width in many sections is only to very old standards of 15 metres (75 links) not the later accepted standard main road minimum width of at least 20 metres (100 links) with the result that no parking lane width or room to pass a turning vehicle is available for vehicles. Residents turning off road cannot move to side before turning left and nor is it wide enough for vehicles to go on left side of vehicles wanting to turn right. The increased volume of heavy trucks will significantly increase risks of accidents as they cannot stop quickly, and have no room to move to one side of road.
4. Increased risks to school children, particularly around mornings and afternoons when approximately 1000 children move to and from schools in Bolwarra, Bolwarra Heights, Largs and other schools in nearby areas on foot, on bicycles and from many bus stops in the local area on the main roads. Bolwarra Public School alone has around 475 students. There are no marked pedestrian crossings or controlled crossings in this area and many children cross the roads to bus stops and school in Bolwarra and Bolwarra Heights area.
5. Increased traffic congestion on routes to and from the Quarry. Major delays already occur on weekdays in mornings and afternoons across Belmore Bridge in Maitland and in Melbourne St East Maitland with existing traffic flows to and from this area. With increasing residential development continuing at a steady rate in this area with ongoing traffic growth all the time, there is already growing congestion without the proposed additional heavy traffic volumes from the Quarry expansion.

I strongly object to the expansion proposal for the Martins Creek Quarry due to the unacceptable traffic movements it will generate and the resulting noise, road congestion, safety risks and general reduced amenity of the area we live in.