

22 November 1016

Department of Planning and Environment
Number: SSD 14_6612
Major Projects Assessment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Martin Creek Quarry Project Application Number: SSI 14_6612

Please find below my submission in response to the exhibition of the EIS for Martins Creek Quarry Project.

Firstly, I would like to state I object to the project as described in the EIS.

I have a high level of concern regarding the following issues and request that these be considered by the Department of Planning. In regards to the Martins Creek Quarry Project, I am concerned about:

TRANSPORT ROUTE

1. Roads from Martins Creek Quarry to Paterson are particularly poor for high volume heavy trucks.
2. In the morning, before the quarry opens, trucks park on the roads leading to the quarry, forcing other road users to drive on the wrong side of the road (see Picture 1 to 3). I have counted up to 34 trucks from Martins Creek to Paterson around 6am in the morning. There is nowhere to park this many trucks when they get to the quarry.

What parking arrangement have been made for this many trucks ?

Pictures 1 to 3





3. Gostwyck Bridge was built in 1928 for horse and carts, and being a one lane bridge is expected to cater for a large volume of heavy vehicles. There has been ongoing repairs to the bridge for years. (Gostwyck Bridge Pictures 4 & 5). Vehicles travelling on Dungog Road towards the bridge have no visibility of traffic approaching the bridge from the other direction. Travelling south on Dungog Road to the bridge there is a reasonably sharp right hand turn and steep descent to the bridge. (Pictures 6 & 7 going south - Picture 8 going north).

What is the weight limit of the bridge ?

How many trucks allowed on the bridge at any one time ?

Who will be responsible for the bridge maintenance ?

Who is responsible for ongoing road maintenance ?

Pictures 4 to 8





4. Proposed new quarry entrance (Picture 10) would require major roadworks and reduction of speed limits. When travelling south on Dungog Road you come up over a crest on the road and then have the new quarry entrance. (Picture 11 – view north Dungog Rd near new quarry entry). (Picture 12 – travelling south Dungog Rd to new quarry entrance on left on crest)

Pictures 10 to 12





5. Road Maintenance – who would be maintaining the roads which are in the Dungog Shire Council. The council has limited funds and relies mostly on Government grants for road funds.

DUST MONITORING

There are several dust monitors in use by the quarry, mainly glass jars (Picture 9), at various sites around the quarry, but none to the north of the quarry. There is no dust monitoring in the area of the Paterson Valley Estate (Wakaya Close and View Street, Vacy). The Paterson Valley Estate consists of 29 residences on small acreage. The closest property is less than 1 km from the quarry. To date, there appears to be no data as to the effects of dust on these properties.

Why has there been no dust monitoring north of the quarry ?

Picture – Dust Monitor – Dungog Road – west of quarry



The glass dust monitors appear to be rather backward technology. Anybody could throw a bit of dirt around to render it useless.

One glass monitoring station south of the quarry had high readings and this was blamed on the cows, apparently.

The quarry needs to invest in some new technology dust monitors to record accurate readings in all areas surrounding the quarry.

BLASTING

Just a few questions:

1. What distance is the buffer zone around the Martins Creek Quarry (some mines have a 2km buffer zone)
2. Is the buffer zone calculated from the boundary or the blast site
3. How many residences are in this buffer zone
4. Has Martins Creek Quarry done any house inspections for damage due to blasting
5. Has Martins Creek Quarry compensated any residents due to blasting damage
6. How many residents around the quarry have complained of damage due to blasting
7. How far do underground vibrations travel due to blasting at the quarry
8. Have all residents within a 2km radius of the quarry been given data as to the effects of the quarry blasts to their premises
9. Have any residents within a 2km radius of the quarry been given any information on predicted results from blasting
10. The rock formation from the quarry has several different layers and types of rock, how does this effect residences due to the blasting
11. Do you have other blast monitors that you don't list on your website
12. If you have other blast monitors can you provide the readings from the blasts recorded on the monitors

Due to the significant concerns of the current project, I request the department of planning does not approve the project.

John Carroll

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