

Director,

Resource Assessments Planning Services Department of Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY

NSW 2001

Dear Director,

We live at Seaham and are already affected by the trucks coming through our area. There are many safety issues on the roads. We have had stones flung up into our car regularly and people are held up by the slow turning trucks from Brandy Hill Road and have safety issues trying to overtake them.

We bought in this area because we wanted to live in a quiet area.

Below are some of the general comments from the community meeting 2nd November 2016:

- the community has no trust in Daracon or that it will do anything positive for the community;
- Daracon has not put in place any interim measures while taking a long time to prepare the EIS, while the community has a deadline for submissions;
- Daracon has not resolved any key concerns of the community despite consultation;
- it appears that Daracon has submitted the development application in order to delay the outcome of DSC's court case;
- public consultation has been applied as a 'tick the box' process;
- it may be ok to do business and make profits, but not on the back of community impacts;
- Council is broke and intimidated by Daracon's wealth;
- changing the haul route will just affect someone else;
- why has Daracon been reactive and not proactive by sorting out some of these issues;
- is Daracon doing adequate studies on threatened species impacts, watercourses and Aboriginal heritage sites?
- the EIS has taken 2 years to be prepared and contains more than 2000 pages, which the community is required to review in 6 weeks;
- potholes in some roads have been filled and fewer trucks have been on the roads during DPE's visit;
- Daracon paid for repairs to a resident's car damaged by a truck trailer. This demonstrates the roads are not designed for big trucks;
- there are so many people affected by numerous impacts that it does not seem that Daracon will be able to address all issues – how does this get approved?

- Daracon has previously indicated that it would operate to the maximum of whatever consent it obtains;
- that jobs on the railway line may be preserved if Daracon dispatches more product by train;
- one member of the community stated that they support the project as it provides local employment;

Traffic and transport:

- it was originally a small quarry with rules and regulations applied (ie. 70% of material to be dispatched via rail) in order to protect people along haul routes;
- 30% of material dispatched by road would still be a large volume;
- haul trucks are very loud, particularly when they are empty and travelling to the quarry to collect loads;
- haul trucks travel very fast past residences;
- the cost of road transport is more to the community, than it is for Daracon to use the rail siding for dispatch;
- during background monitoring for the preparation of the EIS, truck volumes were reduced;
- some residents live very close to the haul route in Paterson and are woken by trucks passing at 5:45 am, 6 days a week;
- trucks arrive before the quarry opens and line up near residences in Martins Creek, which wakes residents up in the morning.
- Daracon's truck drivers are good and the community recognises that Daracon can manage people on the quarry site, but it's contract drivers are the issue, particularly in terms of road safety;
- Daracon's trucks are a minority and the majority are contracted drivers;
- many people have had cracked windshields from travelling behind, or near haul trucks;
- Daracon should buy land to park early arriving trucks and keep them off roads;
- if one haul route is closed, trucks will travel down other routes;
- Daracon has not consulted neighbours near the proposed haul road entrance on Dungog Road;
- is Daracon's proposed volume of trucks an ambit claim so they can get through their desired level of trucks per hour?
- residents hold road safety concerns regarding truck traffic near bus stops and schools;
- material should be transported by rail to Hexham and distributed by road from there;
- some trucks travel below the speed limit and delay local traffic;
- residents have often been advised by Daracon when reporting trucks to the quarry that they are not Daracon trucks and cannot control them;

Noise, vibration and blasting

- the noise from haul trucks is very loud and they speed;
- residents in View Street, Vacy are affected by blasting, which shakes and cracks houses and damages personal items;
- blasting in the last 6 months has been the worst and sound like an earthquake;
- if the blasting gets worse, residents will have a major problem;
- evidence of slab cracking two mountains away may be from blasting;
- houses should be inspected before an approval is granted;
- no notice of blasting is provided to the community;
- consider suppression blasting, which is commonly used in the USA;

Air quality

- diesel emissions are a carcinogen and affect people's health;
- residents are concerned about air pollution impacts, particularly on the health of children and whether this contributes to asthma conditions;

Lifestyle and property:

- the quarry operation is destroying people's lifestyle and impacting property prices;
- the community is not trying to stop the quarry, but want it manageable and not ruining lives;
- people don't want to move, but to coexist;
- some residents have moved to the area for a better life and fresh air;
- while the traffic study may be able to implement a solution in Paterson (eg. barrier in the road to separate lanes), this does not address impacts to the fabric of the village.

My submission

I wish to make a submission that Daracon be required to increase the rail usage rather than the road. The roads were never designed for huge amounts of trucks.

Daracon be required to build duplicate roads at their costs to transport any rock by road and not use public roads.

Daracon should be required to contribute significantly towards the road maintenance costs of all the councils that the trucks travel through at the moment.

Please take into consideration the comments included that the community has raised.

Yours faithfully,
