

Mark & Sheree Grant  
268 Vogeles Road  
Martins Creek NSW 2420

22 November 2016

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

Re: Martins Creek Quarry Expansion – Application No SSD-14\_6612

Dear Sir/Madam

We strongly oppose the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion based on the negative and detrimental impact on our family personally, the community and the environmental implications of such a proposal.

Our property is located 1.8km from the existing quarry above the village of Martins Creek and we believe no acoustic barrier will protect us from increasing noise within the quarry due to the position of our and surrounding properties above the quarry, the impact will particularly be felt due to the following factors:-

- Increased noise during the night (sleep interference and loss of amenity) with 24 hour operation
- Increased traffic noise from roads below 7 days per week 24 hours per day (loss of amenity)
- Additional train haulage which is the primary noise complaint from our property as this is already amplified and possibility of additional trains 24 hours per day and the associate wheel squeal, engine noise and carriage jaunting will make sleep difficult for all members of our family
- Additional blasting noise

The journey between Martins Creek towards Maitland/Newcastle is already difficult enough with the number of trucks currently on the road. The condition of the roads is fair at best. With additional truck usage, the condition of the roads will deteriorate even quicker with the residents primarily footing the bill through local government rates for road repairs.

Our rates should be used providing facilities for the community not to pay repair bills for one company to expand their business. Having travelled this route daily we have been monitoring the registration of truck trailers leaving and returning the quarry and notice the majority are registered in Queensland so any registration fees do not seem likely to assist with ongoing repairs to roads.

Road safety is a definite problem on the road and any increase in heavy vehicle traffic will no doubt increase incidents and most likely fatalities on the roads. Congestion at major intersections will also be further affected.

We note in the traffic assessment for the proposed development the use of roads by cyclist is considered insignificant. We would like it noted all roads from Martins Creek are used heavily by cyclists particularly on weekends. We further note the assessment states the impacts to the village of Lorn will be reduced as trucks will only use this route if that is the direct route to their destination. This would already be the situation and this has cause significant issues for the suburb already without additional heavy vehicles.

Additional heavy vehicle traffic will also have significant air pollution consequences to the whole community including agricultural lands and potentially natural waterways, particularly for those living closest to the main roads. The diesel emissions of nitrogen oxides have known health effects irritating the respiratory system, eyes and potentially reducing lung capacity in both adults and children. Diesel exhaust has been classified as a potential human carcinogen by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The community surrounding this proposed development and transportation routes have invested money in a lifestyle to avoid this type of pollution and should not be subjected to such an uninvited change.

Heavy metals such as arsenic, selenium, cadmium and zinc also possess the potential to harm soil fertility for the agricultural areas along traffic routes.

Additional blasting activities pose additional fire hazards to my property uphill from the quarry site with Vogeles Rd being the only road in and out.

Air quality to my and surrounding properties will be decreased with an increase in air particle emissions from additional operation and extraction which potentially will affect existing respiratory disorders.

The above concerns not only affect our and our community's lifestyle and day to day amenity the proposed expansion will affect the value of our properties and no community should ever have to pay the price for the benefit of one company.

The proposed development contains many non-quantifiable provisions, particularly relating to traffic and the proposed revised entry directly off Dungog Road, to nominate the proposed new entry and bridge is to be constructed subject to product demand is unacceptable. Who decides when the product demand is adequate. The proposed advantages of such a new road to the Station Street Martins Creek residents have no guarantee of ever being followed through.

The environmental impact assessment identifies many threatened species in the immediate area to be cleared as part of this proposal but does not appear to give consideration to impacts to the flora and fauna in the surrounding bushland following additional clearing and impacts from additional noise within the cleared area.

The observation of threatened species within the site should require the land be retained as bushland to ensure extinction does not occur in the future. Biodiversity Offsets will not bring back unique plant communities and threatened species. Endangered plant communities will not thrive in alternate locations they must stay where they are.

Martins Creeks is a rather unique environmental area and we are privileged to live with a large and varied list of wildlife that are not present in the cleared agricultural lands less than 5km away. Although they may not be 'Threatened' it is rare to have an environment where weekly you sight a

new species that you haven't seen before – potentially this could be reduced or eliminated with the quarry expansion., again for the benefit on one company.

We are further concerned about the effect of additional acid sulphate soils because of further extraction from the quarry and subsequent contamination of waterways in severe weather events.

In conclusion, the proposed application for expansion of extraction and operation at the Martins Creek Quarry provides an exhaustive list of disadvantages to the community of Martins Creek, through Paterson, Woodville to Maitland and beyond. This list includes Environmental, Financial, Amenity, health, noise and lifestyle disadvantages. The possibility of losing habitat to even one threatened species is unthinkable. The proposed development provides insignificant employment opportunities to the local community and no benefit to the community. It would appear the only advantage to this proposal is to one company. A company who does not even appear to give back to the community in any way. This proposal should be rejected.

Lastly we would like it also noted that at the recent community consultation meeting at Paterson 2 November 2016 it was stated the residents of Martins Creek had a consultative meeting earlier that day with members of Planning NSW and applicant representatives. We are residents of Martins Creek and received no invitation to any such meeting along with others in my community.

I/We have made no reportable political donation.

Sheree & Mark Grant

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'Sheree' followed by a small 'C' and 'G' (likely initials for the company). The second signature on the right is 'M Grant'.

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