

## **Martins Creek Quarry Expansions – Application SSD 14\_6612**

---

### **I oppose the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion**

Currently we have a situation in the rural township of Paterson, Hunter Valley, which raises some questions regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**PLEASE NOTE:** MOST OF OUR PREVIOUS INPUT HAS BEEN IGNORED BY DARACON. PATERSON VILLAGE HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN THE EIS REGARDING THE SOCIAL AMENITY AND THE IMPACT THIS EXPANSION WILL HAVE ON THE WAY OF LIFE OF ITS RESIDENTS.

RESIDENTS HAVE ONLY HAD A SHORT WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT THEIR OBJECTIONS TO SOMETHING THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO RUIN THEIR LIVES. DARACON HAS HAD TWO (2) YEARS AND HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE CHANGES ACCORDINGLY.

AFTER THE COMMUNITY MEETING HELD IN PATERSON, ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016, DARACON HAS SHOWN THEIR AUDACITY AND MIGHT FOR A ROAD PROPOSAL FROM, ACOR CONSULTANCY PTY LTD, WHO HAVE DRAWN CHANGES TO THE ROAD ON CORNER OF DUKE AND KING STREET INTERSECTION.

THIS HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SHUT DOWN OUR COMMUNITY.

**I would like to outline the situation.**

At several public forums regarding the situation, it has been noted the widespread impact of the Martins Creek Quarry operations has on its neighbouring communities.

- Vacy and Martins Creek communities are being affected by the blasting and crushing operations.
- Residents from Brandy Hill (Port Stephens), Bolwarra (Maitland), Lorn (Maitland), Butterwick (Port Stephens) and Paterson (Dungog) have been impacted by the massive numbers of truck movements.

All this has resulted in a quadrupling of production: four times (4) as much blasting, four times (4) as much crushing and at least four times (4) as much heavy transport through a small historical rural village.

Up to six hundred (600) 50-tonne truck movements thundering through our community daily in convoy. This creates noise, dust and vibration pollution and at times resembles a mining site.

**Current Proposal**

The current proposal by Daracon to expand the quarry operation will see the following:

- Increased operating hours, including dispatching of trucks from 5.30am.  
This means empty trucks, will start rattling through our communities from 4.45am.
- Annual extraction increases

- Approval for the dispatch of 80 trucks per hour through our village of Paterson in convoys of four to ten trucks.

### **How this will impact on our life in Paterson**

The road network has simply failed to keep pace with this rapid increase in heavy vehicle movements. Historically the road network in this LGA was never planned and consequently designed to cope with high volumes of heavy transport. Add to this the design factor, the construction of the road and associated bridges; it clearly is not to a specification that allows for a massive increase in volume of heavy transport. This means that the roads are damaged and when repaired have a short lifespan.

I moved into my home at 21 Prince Street, Paterson in 1988 with my husband and I have lived here ever since. I now live at home with my husband and at the moment, one adult son, in an old house constructed in the 1860's on the roadside opposite Tucker Park.

When I moved to Paterson I noticed that while quarry trucks travelled on the road they were minimal and the **majority of movements from the Quarry was by rail.**

I have noticed a gradual increase of quarry truck movements and the type of trucks in the last fifteen years and particularly so since 2013.

From January to June/July 2014 the quarry truck movements intensified dramatically.

The noise from the trucks travelling past our property starts at approximately 6am. I work an afternoon shift and have done so since 2010. I do not finish work until 11.00pm. By the time I arrive home I do not go to bed until after midnight. Trucks then wake me early and the noise continues for the rest of the day making it extremely difficult for me to get any sleep before I start work. I have on occasions phoned the Quarry to speak with staff re trucks travelling earlier than 6.00am. My nerves are on edge and I cannot escape the NOISE.

In January through to June/July 2014 the quarry truck traffic became so bad that there seemed to be no way out. I considered selling our house but realised we would not be able to because no one would want to live there because of the noise and dust. I feel trapped. **This will only worsen if the Department of Planning approve the EIS.**

I am unable to use bedrooms on the roadside due to the noise and no longer invite friends and family over through the week due to the disturbance.

I look forward to the weekends because truck numbers appear to be less on Saturdays and of course I look forward to Sundays, as it is the only truck free day.

Since the truck movements intensified dramatically in January 2014 we have had to move our living room to another room in the house so that we can hear the television. We can no longer use the dining table in the sunroom closest to the road as the noise is so loud you cannot enjoy eating breakfast or lunch in this room.

We cannot use our verandah through the day as our conversations are drowned out with the noise. This is no way to live your life.

When the trucks travel past you can feel vibrations in the walls, doors and windows. About two years ago I noticed corner cracks appearing in all of the windows on the roadside and verandah. Cracks have also started to appear in walls and recently my cornice came crashing down in our hallway. My house was built in 1860 and is a significant part of the history associated with Paterson. It was not built for this kind of punishment.

### **Health**

Since the intensity of the trucks I have become highly stressed. I cry frequently and feel depressed. Due to my shift work I am sleep deprived and do not want to live here anymore and feel trapped through no fault of my own.

To add further, the damage to our house and the impact this has on my health is adding increasing pressure and stress.

### **Incidents**

In an incident earlier last year an empty gravel truck jack-knifed across the road. I recall watching with amazement other gravel trucks coming down the road and going off road and driving through the park (Tucker Park) to continue to and from the Martins Creek Quarry. No traffic management plan in place. I have video footage of this occurrence.

During the April floods in 2015 I witnessed trucks ignoring the no through road closure signs to travel to the quarry. Others used the narrow back roads through the village in convoy once again. These roads are not built for trucks of this size.

### **Concerns**

My concerns are that the Department of Planning will approve such monumental changes without consideration of how this expansion would impact the community and secondly approve such changes without due consideration to the impact on surrounding communities. There are surely some issues with governance that allow an organisation to assume such power and apply it with very limited diligence.

What action is the Department of Planning able to enforce as a custodian and protector of our community to ensure compliance with the License and Agreement, as the current proposal is inadequate.

I sincerely hope you find the time to respond and help us reclaim our communities' standard of living.

The draft plan by Daracon of new road near Paterson shops and Post Office is a joke. They want to reclaim the road and allow no parking for residents to conduct there day to day business. Governments seem to ignore the fact that we are real people living in these communities. It appears that money speaks louder than people's lifestyles and health. Cash for comment is certainly alive and kicking.

**Summation**

The Department of Planning needs to be acutely aware of how the MCQ is impacting the social amenity of our communities. We cannot continue to live our lives as if on a mining site. Communities do not have to endure the suffering that this community has endured. The current situation is totally unacceptable.

Correspondence addressing these issues has rarely been answered or it has received minimal attention at best.

Pamela Ann Atkinson  
21 Prince St  
PATERSON NSW 2421  
02 4938 5127

I am attaching a photo of early morning run through Paterson on a quiet morning.







