

RE: Objection to Proposed Expansion of Activity at Martin's Creek Quarry

I have lived here 7 Wakaya Close Vacy which is now approximately one kilometre from the current workings of Martins Creek Quarry for 20 years. I am alarmed at the rate in which Martin's Creek Quarry has expanded without adequate consultation to residences. The quarry is surrounded by residences with narrow country roads and mostly wooden bridges with notably Gostwyck Bridge.

When I first moved to Vacy we could not hear or see the quarry and I was happy knowing that the regulations of hours 7am till 4 pm Monday to Friday with 70% of the gravel being transported by rail. We did not experience dust or hear the constant noise of crushers or a pugmill.

I am opposed to any expansion due to

I do not see Martins Creek Quarry as a State Significant resource as it is not the only hard rock quarry. Hard Rock can be sourced elsewhere in many appropriate locations (away from residents, better transport access, buffer zones etc) along with creating jobs elsewhere.

A Geotechnical and hydrogeological impact survey of Paterson Valley Estate: due to the damage we are experiencing in our homes and the possible impact on our waterways. Daracon did a surface rock pick up which I consider incomplete. I refer to a map not referenced by Daracon ***Surface Geology and Structures of the subject area Martins Creek Quarry – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Figure 4 (Niche environment and Heritage) which shows Cen 1v. Vacy Ignimbrite Member within our estate and has not been commented on.*** This could be the cause of the vibration I experience at times when blasting but seems not to have been investigated. I have been told that the blasting monitoring is under the limit but I question this as to the noise and vibration I have felt with even vibration myself, had rattling of windows and china with certain blasts. Are these monitors in the wrong location? How much deeper is blasting allowed? If the quarry moves closer to where I live I can expect more problems? We are at times not given 24 hours notice of a blast. I worry about the long term impact and damage to our home. I have been not been assured that there will no damage to our home or health and find this unacceptable.

Road Safety. I have experienced being sandwiched many times in a convoy of trucks/truck & dogs. Have had **chipped windscreens** and had to replace them from stones/rocks from trucks. . Seen trucks cross over due to their size to the wrong

side of the road. **Gostwyck Bridge** which is constantly under repaired and I feel is grossly inadequate and poses safety issues. This bridge is used by the majority of trucks from the quarry and local people from Dungog traveling south. I have had to give up **cycling** which I loved in my area due to the frightening safety issues of quarry trucks. 80 trucks an hour would I believe be a **danger to the public**. It is frightening enough driving with the numbers of trucks now on the road. The constant movement of **trucks causing damage to roads** and risk of damage and accident to my car and that of others needs attention along with the high cost of repairs. Who pays?

I would like to know if coal trucks were stopped and use the rail system why are quarry trucks still on the road?

Paterson Post Office/CBC intersection proposal to widen the road taking away valuable footpath space. I believe it is essential to have safe access to a post office or business. This poses a risk to everyone including the elderly, children & disabled. The proposed number of trucks / truck&dogs using this corner is unreasonable. The history and appeal is what makes Paterson so special and one which I am proud of. Making such changes also will affect tourism and certainly I would not like to sit in the adjacent cafes with the noise & fumes of trucks.

Proposed exit from Quarry via Dungog Road. Unacceptable due to its location. We have not been given full details from Daracon. I feel this is passing the problem of Station Street to other residences and poses another safety issue.

Health Issues: Air Quality for Dust, Noise & Vibration, and visual impact. Monitoring Inadequate and alarming due to the physical evidence I am experiencing in our home. The onsite crushing of rock should be restricted to alleviate part of the problem. No monitors in are located in my area whilst I am located so close to the quarry. Dust is a constant in my home At times seen in the air or raising from the quarry but even more worrying the particles we cannot see and are going unmonitored. I live in a two storey house and can hear the quarry from our upstairs bedroom and shed. If the quarry extends its hours it will affect our home with noise at **night and add to air pollution and vibration**.

20 years ago I could not see or hear the quarry but now I can see the quarry from both Dungog and Gresford Roads so any expansion will only add to scaring the landscape with **adverse visual impact**.

Fine dust & noise from the Pugmill. Trucks both empty (which shake powder with tarps off) and loaded with extra raw materials needed by the pugmill add to my

health risk. Why not transport the raw product via train to an appropriate industrial site for processing? This has been done elsewhere closer to the required location and therefore takes away the need to start early.

Mental Health: I moved here for a quiet country life and find myself in an industrial zone. I am finding it depressing and a cause of anxiety with the now current Daracon operation along with a future of noise, dust, safety, and the obvious devaluation in regards to our home should this continue. The stress of the road conditions and convoys of trucks. I feel it is also affecting many of our neighbours who I care about. When certain questions have been asked via the Martins Creek Action Group they reply that one has to wait till the EIS which has been a long wait and I find the answers have still not been adequate or unacceptable. Where I live at Paterson Valley Estate Vacy being so close does not show up on Daracon Maps even though we are greatly impacted.

Hours of Operation: I find this unacceptable and should not be increased due to the residents who live around the quarry but also due to the truck movements in our community at unacceptable noise, dust and vibration levels. It escalates the problems I am experiencing now.

Buffer Zones – I find these inadequate with so many residences so close. When I visit certain neighbours I find it alarming to sit outside or inside with the current noise levels. Brandy Hill quarry is surrounded by acres of land whilst Daracon wants to go closer to residences.

How did Daracon get permission to fence off Paper Road?

Environment: Rehabilitation who is responsible the owner of the land or Daracon? How can I be assured rehabilitation will take place on the current operation which looks now like an open cut mine? How will it be rehabilitated and when? Will we be left with a hole full of water infested with mosquitos? Do they pay a guarantee bond like coal mines?

Koalas whilst Daracon has been operating and clearing did they take into account the Koalas resident at the time? I am opposed to the clearing of any extra vegetation.

What will happen to the **water** in droughts and floods within the quarry and adjacent property and roads?

As a long term resident now living so close to the Martins Creek Quarry I ask the department to refuse this application due to adversely impacting on my families quality of life and that of my neighbours, adverse health issues, safety and damage of roads with so many trucks, blasting noise and vibration, along with devaluation of our properties. There are alternative hard rock quarries available making Martins Creek Quarry not a State Significant resource. That the environmental, personal, economic and social cost would be too high should the quarry expand any further and should be wound back.

Thankyou for your time.

Christine