

The permission and approval to extend previous operations has never been approved. This has been complicated by state and local government and a decision should be concluded before this application is considered.

In respect of the operational hours proposed, it is abhorrent, truck movements be extended to 12 hours a day. It takes 30 minutes to travel from outside of Maitland to the quarry. This would mean truck movements start to passing through Maitland, Bolwarra, Paterson and surrounds to arrive at the quarry in the morning between 3.30-4.30 am in the morning.

Currently to commence work , trucks Park between 4.30-5 am along the side of Maitland Rd, Tocal Rd, and in other areas of Bolwarra before the trucks begin travelling towards the quarry.

The quarry does operate some trucks and the majority being contractor trucks. This I don't object to, the only problem is at 6 pm trucks will still travel throughout the area for workers to arrive home.

The township of Paterson is a very small community with a minor 2 lane Street not even wide enough for 2 trucks to pass safely, there is 3 bus stops, a rail crossing and no pedestrian crossing near the main school bus stop, post office and local grocery shop.

As residents, we pay rates for the maintenance Shire roads, and the damage which occurs. Roads between Dungog and Martin's Creek are great but from the quarry the Maitland city council boundary the roads are atrocious. It seems unfair for ratepayers to be responsible for the maintenance of roads for the quarry operations.

Every side street in Paterson, with the current frequency of truck movements, have difficulty in entering traffic without some anxiety occurring. In the morning with truck movements towards the quarry, the speed at which they operate is very alarming and unsafe. As contractors I have no objection with the right to earn a living. The danger of the trucks is increased because they are paid on the number of movements hence speed. During the colder months of the year fog settles in our Valley and visibility is restricted severely. This a very dangerous time for any motorist and accidents are frequent during this time.

If the government desire to approve this application is made then the plight of the majority of affected residents should be considered who have little to gain financially, and constant danger involved. Paterson was a very respected, sort after area for real estate development linking Maitlands expansion.

Many investors have baulked at development along Tocal road from Bolwarra all the way to Paterson. Investment in Paterson has declined dramatically and many people are considering moving from the area if this proposal is approved.

I ask any person participating in this decision to ask yourself if you could tolerate the consistent movement of trucks from 4.30 am all day till 6.30 pm at earliest. Residents of Martin's Creek continually tolerate blasting operate that damage homes within a 6-8 kilometre radius.

This expansion cannot be tolerated for the benefit of few.