

I oppose the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion

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Concerns of a Resident situated directly on Paterson Road at Bolwarra.

TRANSPORT

The additional trucks will be running directly in front of my property.

The condition of the road at the moment, which has recently been upgraded (within last 5 years) reduces the noise generated from the road as well as vehicles maintaining the sign-posted speed limit. A main concern is the maintenance of this road in good condition so as to keep the noise to a minimum. Daracon should be held accountable on a pro rata basis for the ongoing upkeep cost for the road on a commercial user pays basis.

NOISE

The increase in vehicle movements in the area artificially increased due to a lack of investment in infrastructure by Daracon to improve and utilize their rail siding. The current quarry has a 30 year life at 1.5 million tonnes per annum with the current desired output of 80 truck movements per hour in the first 3 to 4 hours of operation commencing at 0530hrs.

Generally, industry in and around built up areas is not allowed to commence until 0700hrs and completed by 1700hrs on a six day basis to reduce the impact on residents and yet still allow commerce to proceed. Daracon should work to the same obligations.

PRODUCTION

Daracon has stated in their EIS response that current limitation give them a maximum output of 40 trucks per hour (80 total truck movements) however, there isn't any mention that that will be the maximum number of truck movements per hour in the future.

What are the restrictions on the truck movements per hour on our "quiet country roads". Sorry, not so quiet country roads.

Why isn't the possible expansion of Brandy Hill quarry factored in to the total impact on the area as a whole.

There shouldn't be expansion at any cost to the environment and the community!

If you can't run an efficient operation at the current approved production levels and comply with your environmental obligations, then choose another business, no business lasts forever.

The report in the EIS on the roadways has a statement from the Maitland Council outlining limited expansion and development in this area ,however, we will have to suffer the increase in vehicle movements on a regular, read daily basis because of this expansion proposal.

The expansion shouldn't be granted. You will be destroying the community amenity of the area which attracted us all here in the first place!

Additional issues for discussion.

The admission in the EIS response that Daracon will not be able to comply with the noise restrictions imposed. Will there be a requirement for active noise monitoring? Will there be a 35db noise level restriction? What are the penalties for failure to comply? What will be the average time for over pressure (noise exceedance) and the response to reduce the levels to comply with the EIS? What type of investigation will be undertaken for exceedances and or complaints from the public?

Will there be vibration restrictions and monitoring for nearby dwellings that may be affected by blasting? What will be the maximum allowable overpressure from

blasting? Is it 115db? What percentage of blasts are allowed to exceed this limit if any? Are exceedances mandatorily reported to the EPA, Local Council? Will exceedances be communicated to the public domain? Will investigations and control outcomes be communicated into the public domain?

Will there be active dust monitoring? What are the specific requirements of the dust monitoring scheme? Are sprays installed on all dust generating machinery and roadways managed with watercarts?

Yours Sincerely,

Braderick Duncan

EPA issues Martins Creek Quarry with two penalty notices for breaching licence conditions

Media release: 22 May 2014

On May 14 the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) issued two penalty notices to Buttai Gravel Pty Ltd, the operator of the Martins Creek Quarry, for breaching the conditions of its Environment Protection Licence (EPL) in relation to hours of operation and sediment and erosion controls.

The EPA's Director North, Gary Davey said Buttai Gravel was issued the penalty notices following early morning unannounced observations and an inspection by EPA staff in April.

"The EPA undertook observations and an inspection of the premises on April 2 in response to a number of complaints we had received from members of the community concerned that the quarry was operating before 6am," Mr Davey said.

The EPL issued by the EPA has strict conditions in place regarding the operation of the Martins Creek Quarry. This includes specifying when activities can start and finish, in this case limiting noise causing activities to between 6am-6pm Monday to Saturday. This condition helps to ensure the disruption to residents is kept to a minimum. However, the EPA does not regulate truck noise once trucks have left the premises."

"During the inspection the EPA noted that operational noise from the premises was clearly audible at residential receivers near the quarry between 5.10am and 6am on 2 April 2014. This included noise from truck movements and idling, reversing alarms, air brakes, light vehicle traffic and what appeared to be the loading of aggregate into a trailer," Mr Davey said.

Buttai Gravel was issued a second penalty notice for failing to have adequate sediment and erosion controls in place at a large strip area onsite.

"A failure to have the correct erosion control measures in place meant there was a significant risk that, in the event of heavy rainfall, sediment from the quarry site could runoff into downstream catchments and pollute local waterways," Mr Davey said.

"The EPA puts these strict conditions in place for a reason – to protect the environment and the community. Quarry operators like Buttai Gravel have a responsibility to comply with all the conditions on their EPL and a failure to do so could result in regulatory action from the EPA."

"The EPA directed that sediment and erosion controls be put in place at the site as a priority, at the time of the inspection. We will continue to keep a close watch on this quarry to ensure Buttai Gravel complies with its licence obligations," Mr Davey said

The EPA must take into account a range of factors before delivering a proportionate regulatory response. These factors include the degree of environmental harm, whether or not there are any real or potential health impacts, if the action of the offender was deliberate, compliance history, public interest and best environmental outcomes.

For more information about the EPA's regulatory tools, see the EPA Compliance Policy <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/legislation/prosguid.htm>

Contact: [Emily Boyle](#)

Page last updated: 22 May 2014

Pressure on Martins Creek quarry to use rail

BELINDA-JANE DAVIS

17 Jul 2014, 10 p.m.



TOO MANY TRUCKS: Concerned Bolwarra residents on Tocal Road. Picture: Marina Neil

NSW Environment Minister Rob Stokes has encouraged Dungog Shire Council to impose a condition on the Martins Creek quarry that would force 70per cent of its product on to rail transport.

Mr Stokes gave his support for the move in a letter to the council last week.

It would leave 30per cent of quarried materials to be moved by road.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has also backed the suggestion and urged the council to enforce the condition.

But council general manager Craig Deasey said that while the council would look at conditions surrounding the distribution of quarry materials, imposing a condition that an amount had to be taken by rail would only lead to “added rail stock on an already congested line”.

He said any materials transported by rail would have to be transferred onto trucks at a certain point to deliver them to their destination, and it was likely that using the line would interfere with coal trains.

Four Bolwarra residents who met with quarry owner Daracon general manager David Mingay and divisional manager Adam Kelly last week say they were told the company was not interested in using rail because it was not financially viable.

“It was very clear that Daracon has no intention of transporting materials any other way than through Paterson, down Tocal Road and through Bolwarra,” Simon Thibault said.

Mr Kelly would not comment about what was said during the meeting and referred questions about the company’s development application to Dungog council.

Mr Deasey said Daracon agreed last month to lodge a new development application because it had not been operating under any agreement with the council, or making contributions to its impact on the road network.

It had only been bound by obligations set out in the environment protection licence issued by the EPA in 2007 when the quarry was owned by RailCorp.

Mr Deasey said RailCorp had been in the process of applying to increase the quarry’s extraction limit to two million tonnes a year when it sold to Daracon.

Although the EPA approved the rise, the council says it is invalid because it was not consulted.

Mr Deasey said it could take six to eight months before Daracon's application was ready to be submitted to the council.

The quarry generates up to 600 truck movements six days a week.

Daracon cop earful at Martins Creek Quarry meeting

BELINDA-JANE DAVIS

31 Jul 2014, 10 p.m.



HEARING: A resident puts a question to a Daracon rep at Paterson School of Arts Hall. Picture: Simone De Peak

EMOTIONAL residents were hostile as they questioned Daracon about its plans to apply to increase its tonnage at the Martins Creek Quarry.

More than 250 people filled the Paterson School of Arts Hall seeking answers and mandates about how Daracon would address their concerns.

At times the meeting was heated and Dungog Shire Council struggled for control.

Chief executive David Mingay told the crowd the company doesn't "go around trying to upset people".

Residents were mainly upset about the 250,000 tonnes Daracon transported via road to the relief roads project at Hexham earlier this year.

They fear that impact, which saw 600 truck movements through Paterson and other nearby towns between 6am and 6pm six days a week, will occur daily.

Mr Mingay said it was a "one-off contract" and the first of its kind he had seen.

"We didn't expect to win that contract," he said.

"Tonnes go up and down... We don't believe we'll be doing [1.5million tonnes] year in, year out."

A NSW Department of Planning and Environment representative was at the meeting, and the department is now drafting the requirements Daracon must meet in its environmental impact statement.

Traffic, noise, and environmental impacts as well as technical assessment guidelines and consultation with the community, government agencies and the council are usually addressed.

A resident wanted an assurance the development application process would be transparent, given the alleged donations Daracon made to the Liberal Party.

Operations manager Adam Kelly said the development application, if approved, would govern the quarry for the next 25 years.

The company intends to contribute to road maintenance in the area.

Dianne Steward said residents wanted the materials moved via rail but weren't happy about Daracon's proposal to load them 24 hours, seven days a week.

"The trucks go through here so fast at times, I don't want to see people lose their jobs but we want more consideration," she said.