23 November 2016

Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Martins Creek Quarry Expansion – Application No SSD-14_6612

I reside in Dungog Shire and I oppose the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion.

My reasons follow:
- Daracon has not resolved any key concerns of the community despite consultation.
- It appears that Daracon has submitted the development application in order to delay the outcome of the Class 4 court case. In my opinion, delaying tactics have been employed to stall progress of this case and the judge has said that the patience of the court has run out.
- Daracon was fully aware of all the Development Approval conditions before it leased the quarry (from their due diligence process). These involved cartage of 70% by rail, extraction for rail ballast and use of only limited lots. Notwithstanding these, Daracon chose knowingly to ignore these and operate outside of the Development Approval for pure profit at the expense of the community, to which they give nothing back.
- Taking these last two points into account, I do not trust Daracon to act in good faith.
- While the overall population and tourism has increased significantly over the last 10 years, the state of the infrastructure has not. Also, the number of trucks has increased at least 4 times over that time. More people, more trucks, same one lane each way roads in a worse state.
- The quarry operation is destroying people's lifestyle and impacting property prices.
- Material should be transported by rail to Hexham and distributed by road from there.
- In my opinion, the proposals made by Daracon are completely unrealistic and are not based on proper impact studies. They amount to no more than an ambit claim and for this reason alone should be dismissed as fanciful and an insult to proper process.

I submit that Daracon's EIS should be dismissed as unsound. In my opinion, it is misleading and does not represent a genuine case for development, having regard to a the total environment, including infrastructure, people, facilities and amenity.