

2 November 2016

The Secretary
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: To Whom it May Concern,

**RE: MARTINS CREEK QUARRY PROJECT SSD 14_6612
LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Qualtest Laboratory (NSW) Pty Ltd (Qualtest) write to confirm our support for the Martins Creek Quarry Project. We are involved with the construction industry and are aware of the importance ensuring quality materials are available at a competitive price – Martins Creek Quarry has been producing quality hard rock materials and product for 100 years.

We are also aware for every \$1.0 million spent in the construction industry the ABS estimates there is an increase in output at approximately 2.866 that equates to approximately \$2.9 million on flow.

These figures are crucial to the Hunter Valley, currently facing a severe decline within the mining industry and having significant job losses as a result.

The NSW State Government has also signalled through its various plans (i.e. Hunter Economic & Infrastructure Plan and NSW Long Term Transport Management Plan) that construction of projects such as road upgrades, road interchanges, bridge replacements and rail construction is proposed for the Hunter. This will cater for the growing and diversifying economy and well as the construction of 70,000 new homes (Hunter Regional Plan 2036) to cater for the increased population economy.

Martins Creek Quarry is one of very select few quarries producing high quality hard rock products and will be relied upon to provide construction materials that meet State government specifications for the construction of road and rail projects within the Greater Hunter Region.

The Environmental Impact Statement addresses key issues, especially those raised by community.

Qualtest is an independent geotechnical, environmental and testing company dedicated to servicing Newcastle, the Hunter Valley and Regional NSW, and provides geotechnical engineering advice, quality control and quality assurance testing on construction materials produced at Martins Creek Quarry, including:

- Concrete & Sealing Aggregates;
- Rail Structural, Capping and Ballast;
- Select & General Fill;
- Heavily Bound, Modified and Lightly Bound Road bases;
- Revetment & Gabion Rock for retaining and various structures.

These products are used throughout the Hunter Valley and Regional NSW on State and Federally funded projects, road, rail and general Infrastructure projects. Products from Martins Creek are also sought after and relied upon by numerous local Councils together with significant other private and commercial developers.

As well as conducting testing directly for Martins Creek Quarry, Qualtest perform quality control and quality assurance construction materials testing for a significant number of Government, Council and Private project sites where Martins Creek Quarry materials are used for construction.

Qualtest confirm our support for the Martins Creek Quarry Project and the benefits it provides to the local and surrounding communities.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Alan Cullen or the undersigned.

For and on behalf of Qualtest Laboratory (NSW) Pty Ltd.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jason Lee', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jason Lee
Director / Principal Geotechnical Engineer