

I oppose the Martins Creek Quarry expansion

To whom it may concern:

As a resident, living in Paterson, the Martins Creek Quarry already impacts our lives greatly. If the Daracon submission for expansion gets accepted I have concerns over the following:

- Noise levels: Every truck & dog driving past our house at 80km/h causes vibration in the house and sounds like distant thunder. We already have too many trucks per hour driving past our house. Living in the country is meant to be peaceful and quiet, but the Daracon trucks are significantly louder than the other traffic and that makes trying to enjoy a relaxing cuppa in our backyard quite frustrating at times. There are a lot of shift workers in this area and I can only imagine how they struggle to get enough sleep with the noise levels
- Increased traffic/road safety: I believe the current number of truck movements from the quarry in this area already presents an unacceptable level of risk to safety on our roads. It is becoming increasingly difficult to pull out of smaller roads or driveways onto the main roads with trucks coming past at high speed and no intention of slowing down. Local drivers will have to take risks if they want to go anywhere as the gap between trucks will only get less with an increased number. It's a (potentially fatal) accident waiting to happen. Even crossing the road in Paterson village would become more dangerous. Residents just going to the local shops are at higher risk to get run over, especially the elderly or children misjudging speed. These trucks cannot stop quickly and many of them drive through town exceeding the speed limit.
- Damage to infrastructure: The constant damage to our existing roads from heavy haulage trucks is already evident to anyone driving in our area. This has been the case for many years already and, apart from being a nuisance, the potholes and road side erosion can be a serious safety risk as well as damage residents' cars. As a consequence, ongoing roadworks already inconvenience and upset people. This problem would only get worse with more trucks on the road.
- Dust/fumes/pollution: even though we are not in the immediate vicinity of the quarry we cannot leave our windows open on a breezy day as everything inside gets covered by a layer of gritty dust. Outdoor furniture needs to be cleaned off before every use and it makes me quite concerned about what me and my children breathe in in terms of quarry dust and fine particles. The dust would also wash off the roof into our water tanks and end up in our drinking water. In addition to this we can smell the diesel fumes from the trucks driving past. Not quite the clean country living we envisioned! Again, with more trucks, quarry expansion and extra blasting this will only get worse.

- Destruction of native bushland: so much of the native habitat has already been destroyed by this operation. In addition to making all the above issues worse by expanding the operation by another 37ha, this will also have a much wider impact of the fragile ecosystem in this area.
- Tourism: on top of the above, I also believe that a further increase of truck traffic will have a great impact on local tourism. A lot of the money coming into this area is from people visiting to enjoy the peace and quiet and get away from the city traffic. Already many visitors have commented on the traffic coming past when they are trying to have a relaxing meal or drink at one of the outdoor areas of our beautiful cafes, pubs and restaurants. The main attraction of being in the country will be destroyed and hit the local economy hard.
- Amenities: impacts on activity centre, being a place where people come to shop, conduct banking and pay bills, get fuel, socialize etc. Increased truck activity will result in reduced car parking, less patronage of local business, reduced tourism, reduced commerce. I am also concerned about the effects on historic buildings.
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Possible Solutions:

To address these issues I would suggest the following:

- Explore the use of existing railway lines to minimize truck traffic
- Sourcing of new suitable sites for quarrying rock to reduce the impact on just one local area and native bushland
- Explore different blasting techniques to reduce noise levels and dust pollution
- Explore value adding to quarry product being performed at another location, thereby reducing truck movements required to cart in material to be added to quarry product. This will also reduce the number of trucks required to cart material out.