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4 Lorn St
LORN NSW 2320
24 November 2016

Director – Resource Assessments
Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001
Martins Creek Quarry Expansion – Application No SSD-14_6612

Dear Madam/Sir,

I oppose the expansion of the Martins Creek Quarry for the following reasons -

1. Road Safety.

The road from Martins Creek into Maitland is a typical country road – only 2 lane – very narrow and always in need of repair. Locals use the small shopping villages dotted along this road for their shopping with newsagents, post offices, schools etc. With the proposed 80 plus quarry trucks using this road per hour I cannot see how anyone will be safe trying to shop along that route. I live in Lorn and the shopping centre is divided by this road as it is in Paterson. Even with 2 pedestrian crossings in Lorn it is sometimes very dangerous trying to cross this area and Paterson does not even have this privilege.

2. Use of Rail

As far as I am concerned Daracon needs to fully utilise the already existing rail corridor. Appendix D of the EIS, Rail Logistics Operations for Martins Creek Quarry, page 16 states '*Whilst rail transport has a clear operating cost advantage over road transport . . .*' It is then argued that '*rail network congestion makes rail transport expensive over short distances and small volumes.*

The safety of the public should be of paramount importance and regardless of any cost barrier the rail line should be used.

3. Health concerns

Pollution caused by dust, noise and vibration are extensive when transporting gravel by trucks and these trucks are running through, in many areas, densely populated communities.

4. Native Vegetation

37.8 hectares of pristine native vegetation will need to be cleared – this is a wildlife corridor and home to threatened species including koalas and squirrel gliders. There is so little good vegetation that has been maintained in the entire Hunter valley that I believe it extremely necessary to maintain this area in its present state.

5. Daracon's Need to Adhere to Consents

There is an urgent need for strict adherence to existing mining consents with meaningful penalties for breaching same.

Thank you for the opportunity to forward my serious concerns.

I have made no reportable political donations.