

24 November 2016

Secretary
NSW Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

To whom it may concern

RE: Martins Creek Quarry Expansion Project EIS; Application Number SSD 14_6612

The Hunter Business Chamber is pleased to provide support to Daracon for the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion Project.

The Hunter Business Chamber is the largest regional business chamber in Australia representing over 1800 member organisations. The Chamber was established in 1886 and works across the entire Hunter Region.

The Chamber recognises that Martins Creek Quarry has been providing quarry products for railway construction, maintenance and repair, infrastructure and road construction throughout the Hunter for around 100 years. The quarry has provided employment for many hundreds of people and has contributed to the economic growth of both the region and state.

The Hunter Business Chamber acknowledges that the proposed expansion and continued operations of the quarry will provide the region with ongoing access to high grade quarry products from a local source, which will potentially be used for projects proposed in the Hunter Infrastructure Plan (2013). The Hunter Infrastructure Plan (2013) identifies significant infrastructure requirements as a result of expected population and economic growth.

Martins Creek Quarry is one of three hard rock quarries in the Hunter. The ongoing operation of all three quarries will allow uninterrupted supply of hard rock materials to private individuals, private and public companies, local councils and state and federal government organisations. Many of these buyers are involved in delivering key infrastructure projects highlighted in the infrastructure plan noted above.

Further, expansion and continued operation of Martins Creek Quarry will ensure that a competitive environment exists, delivering positive supply and price outcomes of hard rock products.

The Chamber also acknowledges Daracon's commitment to addressing any potential impacts in the project's Environmental Impact Statement.

The proponent, Daracon, employs more than 800 people and is a significant employer in the Hunter. Ongoing operation of Martins Creek Quarry will positively contribute to employment and growth throughout the region.

This project has the ability to provide a strong boost to the regional community throughout the Hunter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita Hugo", enclosed within a white rectangular box.

Anita Hugo
Acting Chief Executive Officer