

4 Wakaya Close
VACY. NSW 2421
6th November, 2016

NSW Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY. NSW 2001

ATTENTION: MR. T. WATT

Dear Mr. Watt,

My husband and I would like to submit our concerns regarding the application by Buttai Gravel (trading as Daracon) to increase operations at the Martins Creek Quarry.

We moved to the above address in July, 2008 as a lifestyle change, in order to spend our retirement in a quiet, country environment on a few acres.

When we bought our existing property we were aware that the Martins Creek Quarry was operational, however it was a minimal operation and never impacted on us. However, when the quarry changed hands and started trading under the Buttai Gravel/Daracon banner, everything changed.

We will address each of these changes individually and the impact that they have on us.

Blasting: Each time a blast is scheduled we are notified by a letter drop. Receiving this notification fills me with dread as the severity of the blasts frighten me. Having had a dreadful experience during the Newcastle earthquake of 1989, I feel emotionally stressed and fearful each time a blast at the quarry occurs. The crockery in our cupboard rattles and a new crack in our gyprock appears. Not to mention the effect on our horses and dog. When we first moved here any blasting that took place by the previous owners of the quarry, was so mild that they often went unnoticed by us. Phoning the EPA and lodging complaints is a waste of time because nothing is done.

Our fears regarding the damage to our house is that when the time comes that we are too old to remain here, the value of our house will have dropped significantly and we will struggle to find a buyer and struggle even more to sell at a reasonable price. This is extremely unfair to be worried about at this time in our life.

In 2015 there was a community meeting with Daracon and other relevant people and the owner of Daracon, Mr David Mingay attended and made himself available to answer questions from members of the community. I stood up and told him how the blasting was affecting us and asked him how he would cope if he was living so close to his quarry. His reply to me was and I quote, "If you don't like it, then move". This is the typical arrogant attitude that has been present since the quarry was taken over by Daracon.

Crusher: During busy times of output the noise of the crusher disturbs our sleep. On a still morning the sounds of the crusher drift across and actually wake us. There's been many times that the crusher has been active day after day. Again, we bought our house and land in order to have a quiet life.

Trucks: If the increased output application is approved, the amount of trucks travelling on our narrow country roads will increase considerably. It is only a matter of time before a fatality occurs. It's not only Daracon trucks that are carting to and from this quarry and the amount of "Cowboy Drivers" is staggering. They "own" the roads and are a law unto themselves. We like to walk our dog along our local roads, this becomes very unpleasant when truck after truck is thundering past.

If the plan of the new road being put in from the quarry out onto Dungog Road goes ahead, then definitely there will be a tragedy. The planners need to travel this road and see where the trucks will be turning onto Dungog Road. Then it will become obvious that it's a "blind" area. Cars coming from Dungog will have no knowledge that once they come up out of the dip in the road that they will be upon a truck turning into their path.

Community: How can the State Government even consider allowing the increased output to be approved when doing so is going to severely impact on our small historical village of Paterson.

We often go down to Paterson for coffee and to chat to friends and neighbours who meet down there. We will no longer be able to do this if 80 trucks an hour are thundering through this beautiful sleepy little town.

Our local roads are a mess and are constantly damaged by the trucks and this makes driving hazardous. During bad weather it is very difficult to see the large potholes and changed surfaces of the roads. More than once our windscreen has been damaged by a stone thrown up when we have followed one of the quarry trucks.

In conclusion we would ask that consideration be given to our needs and the needs of our neighbours and Daracon be denied the approval to do this to our community.

We are extremely saddened that our way of life is going to be so badly affected.

Please help this not to happen.

Yours faithfully,

Denis & Bronwyn Cocks