



MARTINS CREEK NSW 2420

PLEASE DELETE MY PERSONAL INFORMATION BEFORE PUBLICATION.

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MARTINS CREEK QUARRY EXPANSION - APPLICATION NO SSD-16_6612

DEAR SIR / MADAM,

I OPPOSE THE MARTINS CREEK QUARRY EXPANSION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS.

Economic Impact

* I HOPE TO SHOW THAT THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF SO FEW EMPLOYEES & COMPANY OWNERS WILL COME AT SIGNIFICANT COST TO RESIDENTS IN THESE SITES: MARTINS CREEK, VACY, DUNNS CREEK, PATERSON, TICAL, BOLWARRA HEIGHT, LORN, MAITLAND CITY, MINDARIBBA, HINTON, WALLALONG, BRANDY HILL, RAMMOND TERRACE, TO NAME A FEW. ADDITIONAL SITES WILL BE AFFECTED BY ANY PROPOSED EXPANSION AS GREATER ROAD USE EXPANDS TO PROJECTS FURTHER AFIELD

DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT:-

• BLASTING CAUSES DUST, NOISE + RISK OF STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY TO MY HOME - 2KLM FROM THE SITE. THIS CAUSES LOSS OF AMENITY DUE TO STRESS ON INDIVIDUALS CAUSED BY THE SHOCK OF BLASTING. DUST IN THE HOME IS AESTHETICALLY POOR, CAUSES DAMAGE TO ELECTRICAL DEVICES, CREATES WORK IN CLEANING + BECOMES A GENERAL PSYCHOLOGICAL DRAIN.

- OTHER RESIDENTS HAVE EXPERIENCED ACTUAL PHYSICAL PROPERTY DAMAGES CAUSING IMMEDIATE EXPENSE IN REPAIRS, LOWERING HOUSE PRICES + SO ON. INCREASED OPERATIONS WILL MAKE THE CURRENT POOR SITUATION MUCH WORSE.
- HIGH LEVELS OF ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH QUARRYING OPERATIONS: DRILLING, BLASTING, LOADING, TRANSPORTING, CRUSHING, MIXING, LOADING + MOVING OFF-SITE CREATES FURTHER NOISE + DUST POLLUTION WHICH IMPACTS RELATIVELY ON THE AMENITY OF LIVING IN A "PEACEFUL" RURAL SETTING.
- FURTHER PHYSICAL EXPANSION OF THE QUARRY POSES A DIRECT RISK TO MY FAMILY'S ONGOING ABILITY TO REMAIN ON THIS LAND. AT ANY TIME THE RISK OF FORCED ACQUISITION HANGS OVER OUR HEADS. THIS HAS OBVIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS, BUT LIMITS ANY IMPETUS TO EXPAND + IMPROVE THE RESIDENCE, OUTBUILDINGS OR DEVELOP PROPERTY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RAISING HORSES.
- THE DELETERIOUS IMPACT ON THE VALUE OF OUR PROPERTY CANNOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION. THE REDUCTION IN PROPERTY PRICES THROUGHOUT THE AFFECTED AREAS WILL HAVE AN ACCUMULATING EFFECT, HOUSES WILL BECOME LESS ATTRACTIVE + WILL REDUCE IN VALUE + BE SLOWER TO SELL. THIS IS ALREADY AN ISSUE, EXPANSION WILL MAKE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SELL THIS PROPERTY — WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE LOSS TO MY FAMILY FINANCES.
- MOTOR VEHICLES ALSO SUFFER AS AN EXPENSE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS. POOR ROAD SURFACE CONDITIONS (POT HOLES, BITUMEN SWELLING + DIPPING, DAMAGED TIMBER + STEEL FASTENINGS ON BRIDGES, LOOSE GRAVEL) ALL DAMAGE WINDSCREENS, PAINTWORK, TYRES, SUSPENSION + STEERING. IN THE PREVIOUS 10 YEARS WE HAVE REPLACED THREE WINDSCREENS + ARE REQUIRED MOST YEARS TO REPAIR SUSPENSION + STEERING COMPONENTS ON VEHICLES THAT HAVE MOSTLY BE DRIVEN LOCALLY. EXPANSION WILL INCUR A GREATER COST TO ROAD USERS.
- DUNGOO SHIRE COUNCIL, NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS NOR STATE GOVERNMENT RECEIVE ANY FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FOR THE REPAIR OF LOCAL ROADS + BRIDGES. THE GUSTWICH BRIDGE HAS BEEN UNDER RUNNING REPAIR FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THIS IS A FURTHER IMPOST ON THE PUBLIC, TO THE BENEFIT OF A 'HANDFUL' OF EMPLOYEES + COMPANY EXECUTIVES + IS GROSSLY UNFAIR.

IN CLOSING ON THIS ISSUE, IT'S WORTH NOTING THAT LOCAL RESIDENTS CHOSE

TO INVEST IN LOCAL PROPERTY LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE RURAL LIFESTYLE! SPACE, GREENERY, PEACE + QUIET. IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT INCREASE TONNAGES FROM THE QUARRY IN RECENT MONTHS HAS BEGUN TO SERIOUSLY ERODE THAT LIFESTYLE. ANY EXPANSION, AS PROPOSED WOULD TOTALLY OBLITERATE ANY PRIOR REASONING FOR LIVING HERE + LOCK RESIDENTS INTO PROPERTIES OF LOW VALUE THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO SELL

• A FURTHER POINT ON ECONOMIC IMPACTS IS TOURISM. ~~AND~~ OVER RECENT MONTHS, YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN TOURISM LOCALLY, WHETHER TOURISTS SPECIFICALLY AIM FOR THE LOCAL VILLAGES AS A DESTINATION, ARE STOPPING OVER AS PART OF A LONGER JOURNEY OR ARE EN ROUTE TO THE CHICHESTER OR BARRINGTON TOPS WORLD CONSERVATION AREA. BENEFITS OF THIS INCREASING TOURISM BY FAMILIES, CYCLISTS, MOTORCYCLIST, VINTAGE MOTORISTS OR COACHES, HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCED BY LOCAL PETROL STATION, CAFE, IGA, HOTELS, B + B's + FARMSTAYS. WITH THALING LOCAL ECONOMIES, LOCAL RESIDENTS RECENT FINANCIAL GAIN IN LOWER PRICES. ANY QUARRY EXPANSION, EXTREME ROAD USE, NOISE, DUST + DAMAGE WILL DETER TOURISM. DURING SEVERAL VISITS FOR COFFEE AT PATERSON DURING DARACON'S RECENT ILLEGAL QUARRYING OPERATIONS, THE TRAFFIC FLOW, NOISE + RUMBLE, DUST MADE THE EXPERIENCE OF DRINKING COFFEE ALFRESCO A HIGH RISK + VERY UNPLEASANT PAST-TIME. I FELT DISINCLINED TO RETURN + SPEND MONEY IN MY LOCAL COMMUNITY ETC.

• EXPANSION, AS PROPOSED WOULD SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE AMENITY OF OUR HOME, LOCAL ROADS + RIVER, LOCAL BUSINESS + OUR COMMUNITY.

• AT A VERY BASIC LEVEL OUR FREE MOVEMENT IS AFFECTIVELY RESTRICTED. THE ABILITY TO WALK, JOG, CYCLE OR DRIVE ON LOCAL ROADS IS LIMITED DUE TO REDUCED FEELINGS OF PERSONAL SAFETY.

• THE LOSS OF PEACE + QUIET (ON 80 ACRES) IS REDUCED. DURING ONE EVENING LAST YEAR, A SUNDAY NIGHT, I WAS WAKEN AT MIDNIGHT BY A SUBTLE GRINDING NOISE, IT WAS LESS A NOISE THAN A RUMBLE THAT I COULD ONLY LIKEN TO BEING IN A DENTIST'S CHAIR HAVING YOUR TEETH DRILLED. BEING A TIRED, BASICALLY URBATE PERSON, I GAVE THE QUARRY A BREAK ("MUST BE BUSY") + TRIED TO RESUME SLEEP. TWO HOURS LATER ... THE GRINDING HAD NOT ABATED + AN ANGER + RESENTMENT HAD RISEN IN ME THAT I WAS MOTIVATED TO DRIVE DOWN TO THE QUARRY + VENTILATE, ON THE QUARRY SITE I WAS STUNNED TO SEE FULL OPERATIONS UNDERWAY, AS ONE WOULD

EXPECT TO FIND ON A MONDAY MORNING, BUT AT 10 O'CLOCK, NOT 2 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING. I SAW A WORKER FUELLING UP A LARGE FRONT-END LOADER + HEADED STRAIGHT FOR HIM, PARKED MY CAR SQUARE ON TO HIS BUCKET + IN MY PYJAMAS GOT OUT + ASKED HIM WHY THEY WERE MAKING SO MUCH NOISE AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT. TO HIS CREDIT THE OLDER FELLOW WAS TOTALLY AGREEABLE. "MATE, IF I WAS A LOCAL I'D BE COMPLAINING TOO. I'M JUST DOING WHAT I'M TOLD". I LOOKED AROUND + SAW THE CAULPIT OF ALL THE GRINDING, A LARGE BIN + CRUSHER WITH TWO SEMI-TRAILERS, LIGHTS ON ENGINES RUNNING PARKED CLOSE BY. THIS WAS NO "LATEX-UP OPERATION" I HAD SUMMISED, THIS WAS PRODUCTION AS USUAL AT 2AM. (4 MORE) + TO HELL WITH ANYBODY ELSE.

I LEARNED LATER THAT THESE OPERATIONS WERE IN TOTAL BREACH OF THE QUARRY'S OPERATING LICENSE. THE BREACH WAS NOT MINOR, BUT A DIRECT TRANSGRESSION BY A COMPANY FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBIT + POSSIBLE LOSS OF SUCH BEHAVIOURS. THEY RECKONED, NO DOUBT, THEY COULD 'WEAR THE FINE'. PERHAPS THEY WERE TESTING THE WATERS, WHO KNOWS?

BUT WHAT DARACON/BUTTAI GRAVEL P/L HAVE DONE IN RECENT YEARS IS GENERATED A GREAT DEAL OF ILL WILL IN THIS COMMUNITY. THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THE COMMUNITY IS FIGHTING BACK: DRIVERS COMPLAIN OF CAR DRIVERS' ROAD RAGE, RESIDENTS TELL OF ACCIDENTS, ILLEGAL DRIVING BY TRUCKERS, BEING WOKEN AT 5:30AM 'EVERY DAY' (NOT SUNDAY ... YET). ALL FOR THE FINANCIAL GAIN OF MR. DARACON OR MR. BUTTAI + THEIR FAMILIES, AT THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL + EMOTIONAL COST TO THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS.

RESIDENTS REGULARLY OBSERVE GREATER COMPLIANCE BY DARACON TO THEIR QUARRYING LICENSE AROUND THE OCCASIONS OF PUBLIC INQUIRIES OR MEETINGS. THIS COMPANY HAS A RECORD OF POOR REPUTATION + A WILLINGNESS TO FLOUT REGULATIONS, COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS OR EVEN COMMONSENSE. I WAS DISGUSTED + DISMAYED TO LEARN THAT DARACON ALONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING ITS IMPACTS ON LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, WATERWAYS, ROADS ETC.

I TOTALLY OPPOSE ANY FURTHER EXPANSION OF QUARRYING OPERATIONS AT MARTIN'S CREEK. IN THE EVENT THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS APPROVED, AS LUDICROUS AS THAT SEEMS TO ME I WOULD URGE THE FOLLOWING LICENSING CONDITIONS:

- AN HOURLY LIMIT ON NUMBERS OF TRUCK MOVEMENTS
- ALL TRUCKS TO BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED - OWNER, CONTACT DETAILS
- DARACON/BUTTAI MAKE REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REPAIR +

UPKEEP OF ROADS + BRIDGES IN THE EFFECTED AREAS.

- A SOLID TRAFFIC BARRIER BE INSTALLED ON THE POST OFFICE CORNER AT PATERSON
- MEASURES BE TAKEN TO PROTECT PEDESTRIANS, CARS ETC FROM TRUCKS IN PATERSON
- TRUCKS BE LIMITED TO 40 KPH @ PATERSON, 60 KPH ON ROADS FURTHER NORTH.
- A SIGN CLEARLY POSTED (+ MAINTAINED) AT THE QUARRY NOTIFYING OF ITS QUARRYING LICENCE, OPERATIONS, HOURS OF OPERATION, CONTACT NUMBERS FOR REPORTING BREACHES
- AN ACCUMULATIVE SYSTEM OF FINES BE IMPOSED SO THE COMPANY RECEIVES NO BENEFIT FROM BREACHING CONDITIONS
- SET PERCENTAGE OF PRODUCT TO BE TRANSPORTED BY RAIL - HISTORICALLY 70%.
- DARACON/BURAI BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEPARATE CYCLE + PEDESTRIAN WAY TO ALLOW SAFE TRAVEL FROM THE QUARRY SITE TO THE SOUTH END OF PATERSON

COMMENT

RESIDENTS STRONGLY SENSE THAT EVERY QUARRY TRUCK LOADED AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR WEALTH, THE VALUE OF THEIR ASSETS, THEIR HEALTH + WELLBEING + THE FIBRE OF THEIR COMMUNITY IS AT RISK. THAT DARACON IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING AT RISK, THE AMENITY OF THE LIFESTYLE THAT ATTRACTED THEM TO THEIR PLACES OF RESIDENCE. ALL FOR WHAT? THE MONETARY GAIN OF A HANDFUL OF CORPORATE QUARRY OPERATORS. NO LONGER IS THIS QUARRY A PART OF THE COMMUNITY, IT HAS BECOME A PARASITE & THE BEHAVIOUR OF ITS MANAGEMENT + THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY HAS TURNED RANCOROUS.

"NEVER BEFORE HAS A PROJECT AIMED AT THE BENEFIT OF SO FEW COME AT THE EXPENSE OF SO MANY". APOLOGIES TO W. CHURCHILL.

I HAVE MADE NO POLITICAL DONATIONS.



