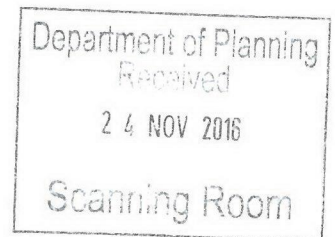


21 November 2016

The Director - Resource Assessments
Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39,
Sydney NSW 2001.



Re: Daracon Martins Creek Quarry Extension 2016

The Morpeth Heritage and Conservation Group (MHCG) wishes to register a strong objection to the proposed expansion of the Daracon Quarry at Martins Creek, NSW.

Following are our concerns and comments re the proposed development.

Transporting the product

This should be using the existing railway.

The trucks accessing this quarry are destroying roads, village amenity and people's lives.

Coal mines are required to transport their coal by rail the same should apply to this quarry.

There is a solution – rail – and it should be used.

Blasting

Currently this occurs without warning and causes damage to property and distress to those living within a large radius of the quarry.

It should be conditioned that those impacted should be given advance notice of blasting. Coal mines in the Hunter Valley already do this.

Off Site Processing

It was suggested at the community meeting that the option of off-site processing should be considered.

Heavy Goods Route

There was strong community opposition to trucks being routed through local villages at the public meeting held at Paterson.

The current route is being replaced by one which avoids the Maitland suburb of Lorn and transfers the route to the New England Highway via Melbourne St, East Maitland. Melbourne St is already a bottleneck in peak hours. The traffic banks up back past the roundabout near the old goal. The addition of many trucks, which also travel during peak hour, will create additional strain on the access to the New England Highway to the detriment of Maitland and Morpeth residents.

Maitland Council should be consulted re this proposal.

GPS Tracking of Trucks

With modern technology it is possible to track individual trucks. Conditions should be applied to provide regular reporting on truck movements, routes and driver performance.

This information should be regularly made available to the community for comment and action.

Cumulative Impacts

There are other quarries in the area and the cumulative impacts need to be addressed.

We trust these points will be given due consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H Berry'.

Heather Berry
Vice President
Morpeth Heritage Conservation Group