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PATERSON NSW 2421

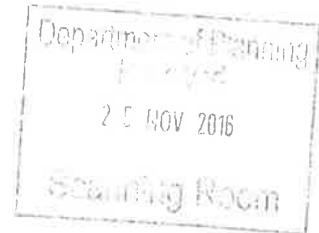
Please delete my details **BEFORE** publication

To the Director Resource Assessments

Planning Services-Department of Planning & Environment

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001



Re – Martins Creek Quarry Expansion –Application # SSD-16 6612

I oppose the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion for several reasons. As a resident who lives in a feeder street [redacted] I will be unable to enter & exit that street safely into the main route (Gresford road) to either Vacy or Maitland. Should the intended number of truck movement proceeds plus the intended extra train loadings our access will be nightmare. We have a school bus that uses Church street to Webbers Creek Road (Paterson Primary school) transporting many outlying area children. This will certainly put the drivers and children at risk of harm with increased heavy haulage along the school route from the quarry.

Then there is the journey into Maitland travelling amongst convoys of double B trucks. Whilst most truck drivers are sensible there have been many complaints and incidents whereby residents have been tailgated and intimidated by drivers pushing beyond the speed limits along the route. I have personally witnessed many trucks coming through Paterson well before the present time that was laid down. We live in the hills and can see the road and trucks plus there has been road monitoring in and out of our town. If this extension is approved you can bet that the convoys will be coming through Paterson between 4- 4.30am. This is a logical assumption in order to be loaded up and leaving the Quarry at their proposed time of **5.30am (refer their request for the working times)**. We residents have been woken in the early hours for years by convoys of empty trucks banging through our suburbs and village.

This is totally unacceptable for any residents living in Martins Creek, Paterson Bolwarra Heights & Lorn & Brandy Hill.

In relation to the extra train haulage please explain how **ANYONE** (driving or walking) will be able to get across the level crossing if there is 100% plus movements of trucks and trains! Shall I now move onto the wretched condition of the roads which we residents have been "slugged" for the constant pot hole fills (wash away every time it rains) resealing etc etc. In fact at Bolwarra a fairly new "reno" on the road surface is now deteriorating. Paterson town is a disgrace with dips and rivets that have been caused by the loads & numbers of truck movements.

The route into Maitland is not built for heavy haulage there are tight corners in our town (refer to attached). In fact this application was found buried within a 60 page Traffic Impact Assessment in a separate document Engineering & Transport Assessments. This came to light this week by a diligent resident who had trawled through 2000 pages (yes 2000 pages!) of this latest submission from Daracon. Apparently this plan was done without consultation and was not brought up at the latest public meeting. You will not be able to safely walk down Duke Street to the Post office nor cross the road into Gresford Road. How will we get in and out to the Service Station? Who will sit outside the CBC and Country Cafe & eat with double B's swinging around the corner each passing one another? With the proposed increase that is exactly what will happen, trucks will be meeting each other all the time at those dangerous corners as well as the "dog leg" part of Duke Street (near the park, we have already had tip overs there!). How are we expected to use Goswick Bridge (single lane bridge across Paterson River) safely with the amount of extra trucks coming & going up to the quarry (refer to your maps you must have access to). Will the State install traffic lights there to allow us residents access to the road? Just a question.

Something that should be considered by Daracon and the State Government if the State believes this quarry is "State significant". **A separate new route should be looked at.** As we are now in the so called "innovation" period surely all the State planners can utilise their skills and look towards building a direct route due west (buy back land-you did it for West Connex in Sydney) no villages or suburbs to disrupt, then veer south and connect up with the New England and rail link, share the load with the coal trains!) May cost the State a bit however all the sell offs could contribute to the project. We don't seem to get very much back in the Hunter considering how much money is generated from coal.

I genuinely want to have not just my complaints but those of my fellow residents along the very long route to the quarry appraised fairly. The people in Martins Creek who have seen this little quarry (now supersized) noise, dust, blasting and destroying their properties, Paterson village, Bolwarra Heights and Lorn & Brandy Hill, all have been affected by the already increasing haulage.

PS I was on the school bus from Maitland to Paterson this week (route goes through to Brandy Hill) and the driver told me that he & other drivers have personally noted that truck haulage has increased along the route over the Paterson Bridge so trucks have been diverted that way as well.

We all deserve better than this!

I have not made a reportable political donation

PS Copy of my letter will go the Premier

Thank you