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24 November 2016

Department of Planning and Environment Information Centre,
Level 22, 320 Pitt Street,
Sydney NSW

Reference: SSD 14_6612 Martin's Creek Quarry Project : Objection

My wife and I own and reside in our home in Bolwarra Heights, which is located immediately west of Tocal Rd. The present level of traffic along Tocal Road is moderate and does not greatly affect the peaceful enjoyment of the Bolwarra Heights area by residents, as it is mainly small vehicle traffic. The proposed increase in heavy vehicle traffic along Tocal Rd from around 15 two-way movements per hour, to 80 two-way movements per hour between 6am and 1pm daily, amounts to a significant increase in traffic noise, congestion and road safety concern, especially through the narrow stretch between Maitland Vale Rd and Paterson Rd.

The SECA Solution Traffic Impact Assessment dismisses the traffic impact on Tocal Rd by suggesting that, while there may be safety concerns for this stretch of road, the increase from 15 two-way truck movements to 80 in each hour is not significant:

Recent work completed by Council on Tocal Road through Bolwarra Heights has improved the road surface and line markings along this section of the road. However this has not increased the running width of the road. Given the apparent existing width constraint of the road reserve in this location, Council are not able to widen the road beyond the current alignment. The accident data at this location does not highlight any specific concerns and there have been no recorded incidents involving heavy vehicles in this location or any accidents resulting in injuries. Whilst the proposal will increase the total number of trucks passing along this section of the road, the intensity of truck movements will remain at similar levels to the existing operations and therefore there will be a minimal impact upon the road safety at this location.

(Extract from Section 4.3 SECA Solutions Traffic Impact Assessment, August 2016)

Further to this, the Council responsible for maintenance and improvements on this piece of road is Maitland City Council, not Dungog Shire Council. Paterson Rd and Tocal Rd are both classified Regional Roads under the RMS Road Hierarchy system. The Traffic Impact Assessment suggests that Maitland City Council and RMS should take any appropriate action for improvements and maintenance to Tocal Rd as a result of this proposal, and that it is not the applicant's responsibility. This is not the case. Daracon needs to be held accountable for all impacts.

I object to this proposal on the basis that it will, by the applicant's own research, create a significant increase in heavy vehicle movements along Tocal Rd, and that such a significant increase will create significant (definitely not 'minimal') impacts for the Bolwarra Heights community and for Maitland City Council:

1. Increased vehicle and road noise between 6am and 1pm daily
2. Increased congestion
3. Increased potential interactions between heavy and light vehicle traffic through a residential area, and with pedestrians and cyclists, due to narrow paved widths
4. Increased road maintenance and rehabilitation costs
5. Loss of residential amenity and community dissatisfaction

Should the Department of Planning and Environment or the PAC see fit to approve the Martins Creek Quarry Project, it should impose conditions and restrictions on the use of public roads for quarry product haulage that will minimize the impacts on residential communities, such as:

- a. Maximize haulage volumes by rail
- b. Limit road haulage truck movements to existing levels
- c. Limit production levels to that which will least impact on haulage routes
- d. Require that all haulage vehicles (whether Daracon or contractor operated) are fitted with appropriate noise and air pollution reduction equipment, and that their use of approved haulage routes is monitored and reported, with applicable penalties.
- e. A Community Consultative Committee (CCC) with representation from all affected disparate communities enroute to haulage destinations.
- f. Contributions from Daracon to affected Local Government road authorities on a tonnage per kilometer basis, for road maintenance.
- g. Contributions from Daracon to affected Local Government authorities for future road safety improvements to known deficient locals such as Tocal Rd at Bolwarra Heights. These impacts will probably not present themselves until heavy truck haulage movements occur, and the applicant needs to be held accountable for this.

Yours faithfully,



John Quinn
BE (Civil), MSc (Eng. Mgmt.)

Attachment:

Location Plan showing Objector's home (12 Gardenia Close, Bolwarra Heights) in relation to Tocal Rd

Location Plan

