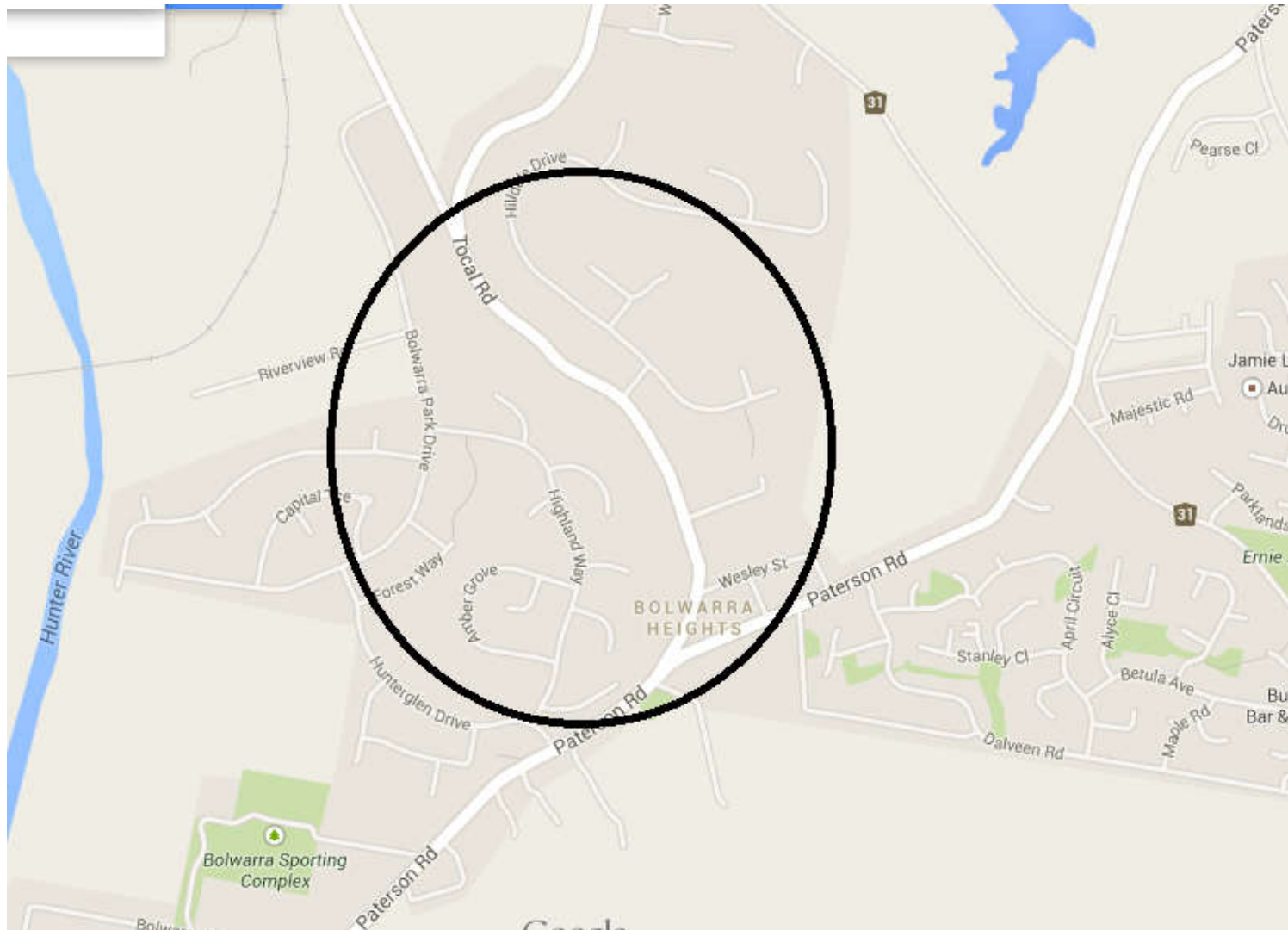


Main area of our concern; Tocal Rd, Bolwarra Heights.



This section of road is barely 8mtrs wide in total, gutter to gutter. It was originally a gravel rural access road to outlying villages such as Lambs Valley and Maitland Vale. It is now the 'main road' to many Dungog Shire towns and to Martins Creek quarry.

Tocal Rd Problems, 2014 extra trucks

- This is a Regional Rd in a Residential area that is exposed to many types of heavy vehicles, 24hrs per day, supplying the Dungog shire and surrounding areas.
- Quarry truck and dogs are the main concern to residents, for the last few months movements have increased to around 60 trucks passing per hour due to a 'Daracon' contract to supply extra rail ballast rock from Martins Creek. These start approx 5:15am and continue all day, Mon-Sat.
- The speed limit is 60km/h, residents applied (via Maitland Council) to have the speed limit reduced to 50km/h in 2015 but this was officially DENIED by the RMS
- A fully loaded quarry truck/dog (which weigh in excess of 50T) cannot stop quickly from 60km/h in an emergency situation.
- The road is barely 8 meters wide in places, gutter to gutter. This is not wide enough to allow safe vehicle parking on either side of the road. In particular the 500mtrs from Paterson to Hilldale Rds.
- Cars, trucks and buses stop and sometimes park in potentially very dangerous locations, especially at the start of Tocal Rd near the Bolwarra Heights petrol station.
- School and regular buses stop AM/PM for children/passengers along Tocal Rd, see following photos for those 'unofficial' locations, the road is approx 8mtrs wide at some of these stops.
- Many people walk along the footpath, in places less than 2 mtrs from fully laden trucks travelling at, or in excess of 60km/h.
- Fixtures such as Power poles and sign posts are obstacles that are less than 1 mtr from the road, on the edge of the footpath.
- At least 6 car accidents have occurred within the last 5 years ranging from smashed letterboxes/garbage to fences damaged. Most residents including myself can give near miss examples of both cars and trucks that only luckily did not end up a serious or fatal accident.
- Wildlife such as possums, dogs, cats and even Kangaroos have been killed on this road by vehicles.