

This makes my blood boil. How is the proposed expansion of Martin's Creek Quarry a State Significant Project? If it is significant to the State, why did the State end the lease with the quarry in the first place? Is it significant because Daracon is lining your pockets? If it is so significant why won't you organise a public meeting where all affected communities can voice their opinions? Scared?

Who actually knows how Daracon acquired the quarry? It seems to have been all behind closed doors. Then they go and rip, tear, bust without consent and make who knows how much money? Until Dungog Council took them to court and had them stopped. But why didn't the State government hold them accountable to the original quarry plan in the first place? Have they been fined? NO. They were just asked to comply. I am concerned the same thing will happen with this current application. Will anyone hold them accountable? Who can communities rely on to make sure Daracon follow any of the guidelines set? Are you going to count the trucks? And really, if you only fine a coal mine 15K for a blast that goes wrong and covers people in toxic gases and dust, what punishment would Daracon receive? That's why communities don't trust you.

How do you think a small historic village is meant to handle 40 TRUCK MOVEMENTS every hour? The proposed route through our town is our main street. It is pedestrian heavy. Many school buses pick up and let off primary and high school students, our children, who then have to navigate across this road to walk home. Elderly residents do their weekly shop at the butcher, grocer and pharmacy. There are also several residences and businesses along this stretch with driveways onto the road who need to access their properties safely. We already have to contend with the safety hazard of a 90 degree corner limiting vision of oncoming traffic, a rail crossing, and at the other end a blind dog leg corner that requires the good grace of god to navigate successfully on a slow day. It will be near impossible to guarantee the safety of Paterson residents and their children with the increase in truck movements to 40 trucks / hour. What will be the tipping point, a serious accident? The death of a school child? Do we just have to accept your gamble with our safety and wait to find out?

Just 15 minutes drive from Paterson is the Brandy Hill quarry that has just had an extension approved and then 25 mins from Paterson you have another quarry run by Boral on Italia Rd. Both of these quarries are on main roads or the Pacific Hwy, which means the trucks don't drive through the main street of a small town. The Brandy Hill quarry that was just approved has 2 trucking routes. One through Brandy Hill Drive (which was a bypass route for the quarry, instead of driving through Seaham when the quarry was first approved). The 2<sup>nd</sup> route from Brandy Hill Quarry is into Bolwarra along Flat Rd into East Maitland. Guess what? From Bolwarra into East Maitland is the same section of road Daracon are seeking approval for. Hello cumulative impacts. I guess you're going to tell me both these quarries will communicate with each other to offset the impacts. Daracon's submission DOES NOT ADDRESS THIS ISSUE.

See diagrams below.

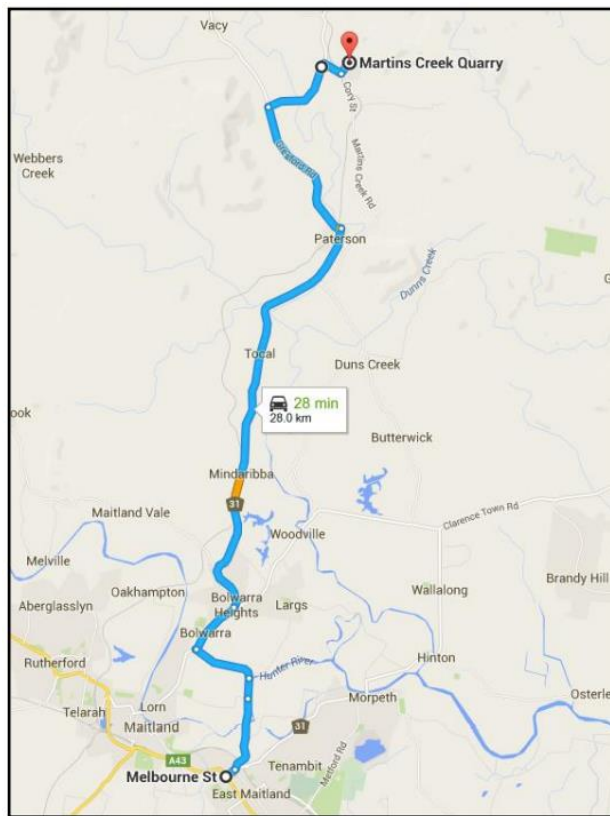


Figure 2-3 – Quarry Haulage Route

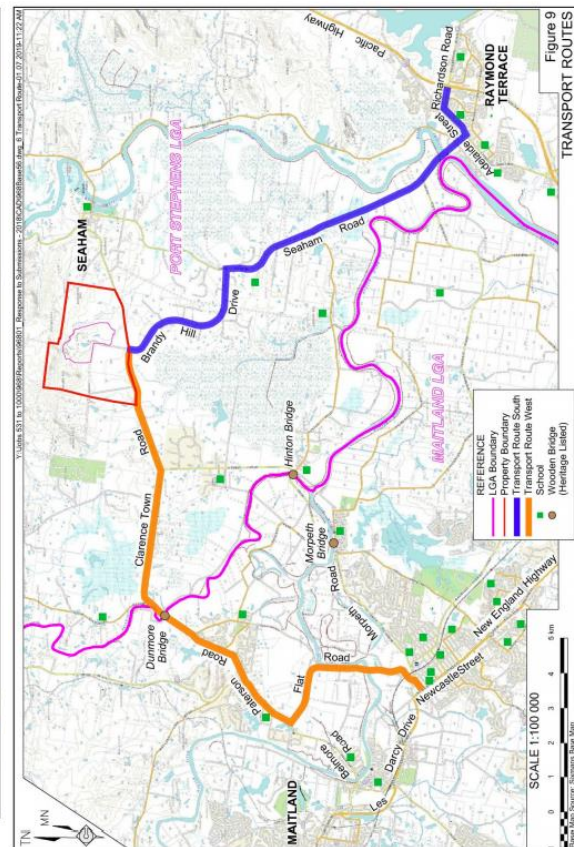


Figure 9  
TRANSPORT ROUTES

Martins Creek Quarry has a unique feature called rail transport (train load out facility) If the so-called ‘special rock’ that Daracon calls it, is needed by your developer friends in Sydney. Then make them transport it by rail. Why not get them to build a ‘rail to truck’ transfer station right next to a highway and away from people, or is their bottom line too important to you? In all the consultation meetings I have been to, Daracon have told us this option would be too expensive. What about the cost to the local community? Our safety (compromised by excessive truck movements), our health (compromised by excessive dust), our safety (compromised by excessive truck movements) our lifestyle (so much for a peaceful village, property value will decline).

This planning system is a joke. Why is it every time a large business like Daracon puts up an application, they do so with unrealistic proposals. Initially wanting more truck movements, more rock extraction, large operating times etc than is needed. This is so they can appear the ‘good guys’ and say how well they consulted the community, when they reduce all of these quantities. DO they take us for fools to not see through this ruse? 40 TRUCK MOVEMENTS EVERY HR IS STILL 40 TOO MANY.

Also how fair is your submission process? For example, why is the weighting of a Daracon employee’s submission (someone who doesn’t even work at the proposed quarry, but actually works at another site and has been asked by their employer to contribute a submission) equal to someone who lives in Paterson who will have to live with the disastrous impact of this extension for the next 25 years.

Being part of this so called consultation process over the last 4-5 years has been very stressful. The community has LIVED EXPERIENCE of these impacts from when Daracon were operating illegally. Throughout the process we felt like we were not being listened to and our opinions did not matter.

Umwelt (the company Daracon employed to do all the consultation) obviously only have one thing in mind, supporting the company paying them. The final stage of the meeting process saw us sitting and listening to how THEY rated all the risks and how they had all been reduced. The members of the community had no say in this rating. I objected to it over and over, but they seemed to gloss over it. Consequences cannot change by reducing some truck movements, the consequence stays the same, (excessive truck movements through a town's main street will end in the same safety issue). I think they were JUST TICKING THE BOXES in regards to the community consultation process.

For those that will sign off on this application I will hold you personally responsible, not if, but when someone is seriously hurt or killed or suffers health effects from this operation. Road traffic incidents happen frequently enough let alone creating more dangerous situations like this. All for the profit of a company.

Summarising I object to this project and have issues with-

THE SAFETY, NOISE AND CONGESTION ASPECTS WITH TRUCK MOVEMENTS THROUGH MY TOWN AND ALONG THE FULL LENGTH OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE

CARCINOGENIC DUST FROM THE SITE AND FROM TRUCKS

THE FACT THAT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS DON'T POLICE THESE PROJECTS TO THE COMMUNITIES EXPECTATIONS. (DUST MONITORING, BLAST VIBRATIONS, TRUCK NUMBERS, ROUTES AND TIMES).

I HAVE CONCERNS THAT CLEARING MORE LAND, INCREASING BLASTING AND DUST AND INCREASES IN TRUCK MOVEMENTS WILL AFFECT KOALAS THAT LIVE ON AND AROUND THE AREA. WHEN YOU SIGN OFF ON THIS PROJECT, YOU CAN BE PROUD OF YOURSELVES IN CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR EXTINCTION.

WHEN WILL COMMON SENSE PREVAIL?

WRONG PLACE FOR THIS SIZE OF QUARRY

