

I live in Bolwarra Heights, close to the busy road artery of Paterson Rd, which I enter and travel along several times a week. My daughter's family, with our grand children live in Hunterglenn estate, and enter Paterson Rd from Hunterglenn Drive several times a day.

I am very disturbed by expansion plans for the Martins Creek Quarry which will impact in very negative ways on the lives of families in this area. I know there are significant concerns in other areas along the proposed route, but I am addressing those for my immediate area. The concerns include:

Traffic and Safety.

As may be seen in the attached map, there are several critical access points to Paterson Rd Bolwarra Heights which are already under stress, particularly at peak times of the day. Near misses are common, and the impact of increased heavy truck traffic is very worrying. 40 trucks movements an hour is almost too horrifying to contemplate.

The most worrying to me is the access point from Hunterglenn Rd to Paterson Rd, which is already a nightmare in peak times like school runs. Large numbers of trucks thundering through there would increase the danger immeasurably.

The other very worrying access point is Bolwarra Rd where the school is located. Very large numbers of cars queue to get out of that intersection twice a day, and have to grab quick gaps to get out. Increased truck traffic is obviously going to aggravate the situation and further increase the danger.

Other problematic access points in my area are:

The intersection of Paterson and Tocal Rd near the service station.

Victoria Road, which leads to the Sports ground and is also used for drop and pick up for Bolwarra school.

The Tilly's Childcare Centre on Paterson Road

The roundabout to Pitnacree Rd.



Nature of the road corridor.

Tocal Rd/Paterson Rd Bolwarra Heights is not a road artery that routes through unpopulated areas but is closely settled each side of the road. In many cases homes are only 10 metres from the road. This is a family and retiree area that people have chosen because of the pleasant environment. While it is a main road, it is only sporadically busy and generally only normal cars.

The noise impact of a constant stream of trucks outside their door will be very significant and life changing. There is also likely to be a downward trend to property prices on the truck route. Who wants to live on a road with trucks thundering through every few minutes?

The community along the proposed route has fought the inappropriate plans for expansion and road transport for years. It is disturbing that the Company persists with strategies that ride roughshod over the environment and the local communities' right to quiet enjoyment of their homes and safe movement on the roads.

Environmental concerns

The proximity of homes to Paterson and Tocal Roads also exposes the inhabitants to diesel exhaust fumes and dust. Trucks by their very nature are responsible for these issues, and 280 movements a day obviously multiplies these hazards greatly.

It is also very disturbing to read that Daracon wants to clear 21ha of native vegetation. The area has unique habitat with many native flora and fauna species.

Economic Benefit

I understand that the quarry will employ only 22 eft people, a ludicrously small benefit when balanced against the safety and well being of thousands along the haulage route, as well as loss of bushland and habitat.

The cost/benefit analysis does not seem to stack up at all.

Conclusion

It disturbs me that a road corridor that is fringed by family homes, historic properties and beautiful tourist friendly countryside is seen as no more than a transport route.

There is a viable rail alternative which should be the main transport means for the quarry product. It is outrageous that any potential cost saving in using road movement should be at the expense of the safety and wellbeing of local residents.

The economic benefits are to the company and their shareholders. Fair enough that they should pursue that objective, but NOT at the expense of the local community.

The community has proved over and over for years that heavy road movement from this quarry is unacceptable to the residents and businesses.

I ask that NSW Planning Dept listen to the outrage of the local communities and reject Daracon's application for expansion of the quarry.

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