

I am a resident of Bolwarra Heights and have lived in the area for some years, including 14 years near Paterson. I now have grandchildren who live in the area.

I travel to work along Paterson Road several times a week. I also frequently assist our daughter's family, who live in Hunterglenn Estate with grand children school pickups. I find entering Paterson Rd from Hunterglenn Drive very challenging in peak times.

I was very concerned to hear of proposed expansion plans for the Martins Creek Quarry as this issue has come up many times before and residents of the area right through from Paterson were very worried about the potential impact on the lives of families and businesses in this area.

Affect on traffic and Road safety

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 concerning. 40 truck movements an hour would be totally inappropriate for this residential area.

One of the worst, in my view, is the access point from Hunterglenn Rd to Paterson Rd, which I find a nightmare in peak times like school runs. Large numbers of trucks travelling through there would increase the danger greatly. In addition many children these days travel by bike and need to cross Paterson Rd at various points. Others are alighting from buses, and again crossing the road.

Another important access point is Bolwarra Rd where the primary school is located. There are always queues of cars trying to get out of that intersection twice a day, and they have to grab quick gaps to get out. Increased truck traffic is obviously going to aggravate the situation and further increase the danger.

Other problem intersections 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.

Residential development along the route

Tocal Rd/Paterson Rd Bolwarra Heights is not a road artery that traverses unpopulated areas but is closely settled each side of the road. In many cases homes are very close to 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 busy at certain times of the day and generally only cars.

The noise impact of a constant stream of trucks outside their door would have an enormous impact on the comfort and enjoyment of residents' lives. There would surely also be an effect on property prices on the truck route.

I am aware that the community along the proposed route has fought inappropriate plans for expansion and road transport for years. This included court action against unauthorized truck movement by the quarry Company. It is most annoying that the Company persists with strategy proposals that would affect the environment and the local residents' right to quiet enjoyment of their homes and safe movement on the roads.

Environmental concerns

Past unauthorized truck movements have shown that homes on Paterson and Tocal Roads are affected by diesel exhaust fumes and dust, as well as intrusive noise. Trucks by their very nature are responsible for these issues, and 280 movements a day obviously multiply these hazards greatly.

As mentioned, I lived near Paterson/Martins creek for a number of years and valued the unique habitat with many native flora and fauna species. To read that Daracon wants to clear 21ha of native vegetation is something that annoys me very much. It seems the community is constantly fighting to save these important areas of natural beauty. The tourist industry has become an important economic contributor to the area, due in no small part to its unspoilt beauty.

The "Economics".

I read that the quarry will provide employment. However, to only 22 people, which seems a very small benefit when balanced against the safety and well being of thousands along the haulage route, as well as loss of bush land and habitat.

To the local community the cost/benefit analysis does not stack up. We look at the benefit to tourism of this lovely corridor with access to the various tourist destinations, including Tocal House and historic Paterson. We consider the personal and economic disadvantages to residents and businesses. We think of the effect on the safety and condition of the roads.

It does not stack up.

Conclusion

So, we have a road corridor that is fringed by family homes, historic properties and beautiful tourist friendly countryside. Daracon sees a transport route.

Residents and business owners see an artery that provides access to homes, farms, schools, leisure areas, tourism opportunities and important habitat.

There is a viable rail alternative, which should be the main transport means for the quarry product. I am not sure if it is cost saving that favors using road transport from the quarry. If so, it has to be assessed against the cost to the safety and wellbeing of local residents and businesses.

The community, including businesses has fought for years against heavy road movement from this quarry. Yet, here we are again, and the opposition is stronger than ever.

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

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