

14 July 2021

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
c/-James Mcdonough

RE: Submission: Martin's Creek Quarry Project Proposal

I submit this letter on behalf of the Greens NSW in **objection** to Daracon's Amended Development Application, number SSD-6612. This application includes the expansion of the existing quarry site, a significant increase in extraction and freight and clearing of 21 hectares of native vegetation, including threatened wildlife habitat.

Community members and action groups have been vocal in their objection to the application, predicting that the development will decrease local amenity, property values and business activity for tourism, hospitality and events industries as well as increase noise, dust and toxic air pollutants. Finally, of great concern are the impacts to native wildlife, particularly the resident koala populations on site.

The Biodiversity Assessment Report prepared by Conacher Consulting Pty Ltd in May 2021 indicates that a number of threatened species will be 'significantly impacted', including koalas, Regent Honeyeaters, Swift Parrots and Spotted-tailed Quolls¹. The site area is within the Barrington Area of Regional Koala Significance and koalas have been detected within the project area by several different environmental consultants' assessments since 2007². The report states: *"the site is also likely to contain Core Koala Habitat as a resident population of the Koala is considered to be present, as evidenced by recent sightings and historical records of a Koala population"*³.

Last year, a NSW Upper House Inquiry found that, without urgent government intervention, koalas would be extinct by 2050 and "fragmentation and loss of habitat poses the most serious threat to koala populations in New South Wales"⁴. The Martin's Creek Quarry expansion proposes unacceptable loss and degradation of core koala habitat and further harm to

¹ [Biodiversity Assessment Report](#), p. 132

² [Biodiversity Assessment Report](#), p. 99

³ [Biodiversity Assessment Report](#), p. 100

⁴ [Koala populations and habitat in New South Wales](#), p. xii

populations that have already suffered the devastating effects of drought, bushfires and land clearing.

In 2019, the NSW Land and Environment Court found that Daracon had been conducting unlawful operations on the site since 2012. This decision does not imbue confidence that Daracon has the either the willingness or capacity to successfully undertake the delicate task of conserving koala habitat within their project area. Regardless, the edge effects of blasting, extraction, processing and freight are likely to negate any efforts to retain a healthy koala population in the area should the application succeed.

The Greens NSW object to this proposal on the basis of strong community opposition and the unacceptable impacts further loss of core koala habitat will have on the remaining local populations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cate Faehrmann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cate Faehrmann MLC
Greens NSW Environment and Wildlife Spokesperson