MARTINS CREEK QUARRY PROJECT
SSD-6612

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58 View Street
VACY 2421

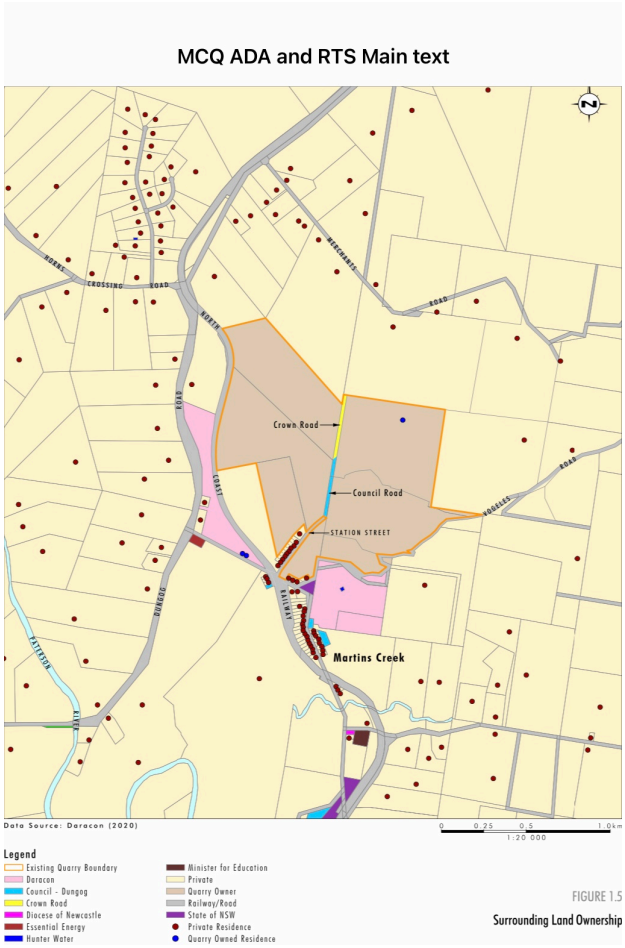
27 July 2021

I object to the proposal and ask that it be refused. My objection is based on blasting impacts, air quality, noise, land zoning and transport.
I have lived at my current address for 29 years.
I have made no political donations in the previous two years.

Blasting

Below is the map of surrounding residences

MCQ ADA & RTS Main Text
12.1.6 Blasting



Provide predicted blast levels for potentially affected receivers based on the different stages of the quarry extraction plan.

A detailed BIA has been prepared for the Revised Project and is presented in Appendix G. The blast modelling was undertaken for representative quarry years and considered blast design parameters and the closest privately-owned residences to assess the potential air overpressure and vibration generation from blasting. Section 6.7 provides predicted blast levels for potentially affected receivers for the different stages of the Revised Project.

The BIA showed that potential impacts associated with blasting activities can be managed so that the relevant blast criteria are met at all private residences, by undertaking blasting in accordance with a detailed design process that considers operational, geological and environmental constraints for each blast.

Final Martins Creek Quarry EIS
Blasting Update Report- May 2021

Fly rock Pg 2
It is my understanding that a 500 metre exclusion zone is fairly standard in mining & quarrying.

Table 9 Pg 22
This table gives predictions for Air Overpressure. 2 View Street is a vacant block of land.

Table 11 Pg 26
Modelled blast vibration and overpressure for key infrastructure and heritage items.

Where are the predictions for ground vibration (ppv) for residences that surround the quarry?

Anzecc Guidelines 1990

Technical basis for guidelines to minimise annoyance due to blasting overpressure and ground vibration.

This guideline also includes:

2.2.3 Experience has shown that for almost all sites ppv of less than 1mm/sec is generally achieved.
It is recognised that it is not practical to achieve a ppv of this level at all sites and hence a recommended maximum level of 5mm/sec has been selected. However, it is recommended that a level of 2mm/sec (ppv) be considered as the long term regulatory goal for the control of ground vibration.

Blast monitors

The location for the blast monitor in Paterson Valley Estate (View St & Wakaya Close) is listed on the EPA Licence 1378 as 19 View Street.
The blast monitor is from my knowledge always in Wakaya Close or on the corner of Wakaya Close/View Street. (200 metres approximately north of EPA listed position).

Why place microphone and geophone behind large fence post?

Audibility of Blasting

Can the EPA and the Department of Planning confirm that audibility of blasting is not a factor in blasting compliance?

Considering the number of residences surrounding the quarry and the number of people who have complained about 'noise' associated with blasting I think it's a relevant point.

I have not seen any reading for blasting overpressure expressed as dBA - weighted to the range audible to the human ear.

Does the blast monitoring equipment and software enable an A weighted reading for overpressure?

Appendix G - Blasting Impact Assessment

The data in Table 3 refers to the closest that blasting comes to each of the residences in each of the sectors for each quarry stage, rounded to the nearest 5m.

Table 3 – Closest Distances to Blasting in Metres for Each Quarry Stage

Res ID	Address	Sector	Distance to Receiver from Nearest Blast (m)						
			Current	Year 2	Year 6	Year 10	Year 15	Year 20	Year 25
R46	406 Dungog Road, Martins Creek	North	540	885	570	350	350	360	1490
R92	32 View Street, Vacy	North	935	1305	965	785	760	760	1910
R73	16 View Street, Vacy	North	800	1195	830	675	640	640	1735
R32	14 Vogeles Road, Martins Creek	East	880	425	930	930	915	915	425
R60	126 Merchants Road, Martins Creek	East	550	550	550	565	565	565	895
R67	159 Vogeles Road, Martins Creek	East	1230	880	1120	1125	1135	1135	880
R1	23 Station Street, Martins Creek	South	310	305	395	310	325	325	290
R16	256 Dungog Road, Martins Creek	West	345	755	420	320	270	270	810
R34	388 Dungog Road, Martins Creek	West	250	705	275	275	285	285	1120

Are these distances calculated from residence or from residence property boundary?
If calculated from residence are these properties providing the buffer/separation distance from quarry operations?

Will road closures need to occur when blasting is undertaken?

MCQ ADA & RTS Main Text

14.1.4 Blasting and Vibration

If the Revised Project is approved, blasting activities will continue to be undertaken in accordance with the existing Blast Management Plan, which will be updated as required. All blasting undertaken as part of the Revised Project will continue to be managed to meet relevant blasting criteria.

I have not seen the existing Blast Management Plan, could it be provided?

Land Zoning

MCQ ADA & RTS Main Text

4.2.3 State Environmental Planning Policies

The Revised Project is within an area which has been subject to quarrying since the early 1910s, with this quarrying activity coexisting with neighbouring land uses for over 90 years. The Revised Project is therefore considered to be compatible with existing land use of the quarry and broadly

compatible with the surrounding land uses. Key elements of the Revised Project have been designed to minimise impacts on surrounding land uses. The compatibility of the Revised Project with surrounding land uses is considered in more detail in Section 6.2.4

Paterson Valley Estate comprising Wakaya Close and View Street are zoned R5 Large Lot Residential.
No quarrying is permissible within this zone, so why should we be impacted with blasting, air quality and noise impacts from the quarry.

MCQ ADA & RTS Main Text

1.3.2 Land Use, Zoning and Land Ownership
The quarry site has been used for quarrying purposes since 1914. For many decades, there have been private residences located in relative close proximity to the quarry in Station Street which is currently used to access the site, and more broadly in nearby Martins Creek village. While most of the surrounding land is utilised for agricultural purposes, rural residential land use has become more prominent in the general locality over the years. More recent rural residential subdivision has been established to the north and south of the Martins Creek village, and in Vacy, to the north and northwest of the West Pit (refer to Figure 1.3). Further details on existing land uses and potential impacts on land uses associated with the Revised Project, are provided in Section 6.2.4

I assume the more recent residential subdivision to the northwest of the West Pit is Paterson Valley Estate. Our house was built in this estate 29 years ago so hardly fits the recent definition.

Transport issues

Gostwyck Bridge April 2015.

6.3.3.1
6.107

Gostwyck Bridge
The Gostwyck Bridge (BN1461) crosses the Paterson River on Dungog Road, approximately 3.7 km south west of Martins Creek and approximately 3 km north of Paterson, as shown on Figure 2.16.
The bridge has a total span of about 100 m and consists of a single main steel Pratt truss span supported by concrete piers and flanked by six timber girders approach spans. **The carriageway width is approximately 5.5 m between kerbs and carries a narrow two lanes for light vehicles or one lane for heavy vehicles.** The internal truss height clearance from the deck to the overhead bracing is 5.5 m. In general, the bridge is in good condition (FBE, 2020).
Although not on a B-Double route, the Gostwyck Bridge is open to general access vehicles. In 2016 (at the time of the exhibition of the EIS) the bridge carried around 900,000 t or 30,000 heavy vehicles (up to 50.5 t trucks) annually.
The bridge is listed on the NSW State Heritage Inventory, the Dungog Local Environment Plan 2014 and the Roads and Maritime Section 170 Heritage Register. The bridge is considered to have a high heritage significance at a local level (FBE, 2020). A detailed description of the Gostwyck Bridge is provided in Appendix M.

Gostwyck bridge is a one lane bridge with a give way on the northern side, ***regardless of vehicle type****.*

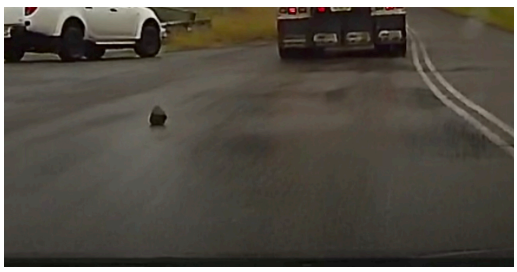
The give way sign on the northern side of the bridge would benefit from some flashing lights.

Previously when Gostwyck bridge has been closed trucks have used Horns Crossing Road. The turn path is inadequate for trucks with dog trailers to keep to their side of the road when turning from Dungog Road into Horns Crossing Road.

Another road where trucks with dog trailers cross to the opposing lane is Paterson Rd into Duns Creek Rd, this route has been removed as a primary haul route now proposed only to service local jobs as required.
What defines a local job, what tonnage might be trucked on this route for a local job?

The transport assessment states that roads are sufficient for this project, but the lived experience of driving these roads with these numbers of trucks is somewhat different.

Rocks in truck and dog dual tyres.
What procedure do Daracon have to ensure dual tyres are free of rocks before trucks leave quarry?



This occurred in Martins Creek just after truck & dog went over rail crossing.
What could the impact have been if the rock dislodged in 80/100km speed zone?

Community contributions

I fail to see how these contributions would alleviate the impact of this proposal.

Air Quality

Crystalline silica

Is a 1 day sample sufficient to assess?
Considering the serious health implications and proximity of numerous residences I request that the consent authority assess this over a more appropriate sampling period.

Was the dust generated from blast hole drilling assessed?

Air Monitoring

Would like the EPA to consider adding another high volume air sampler or TEOM/BAM monitor to the licence rather than the dust deposition gauges which seem like the cheap option, if approval is granted for this project.

Noise

ADA and RTS - Section 8.1.6
Summary of Environmental Mitigation and Management Measures

- machines working on the higher, more exposed benches in the West Pit will be relocated during periods of noise-enhancing meteorological conditions

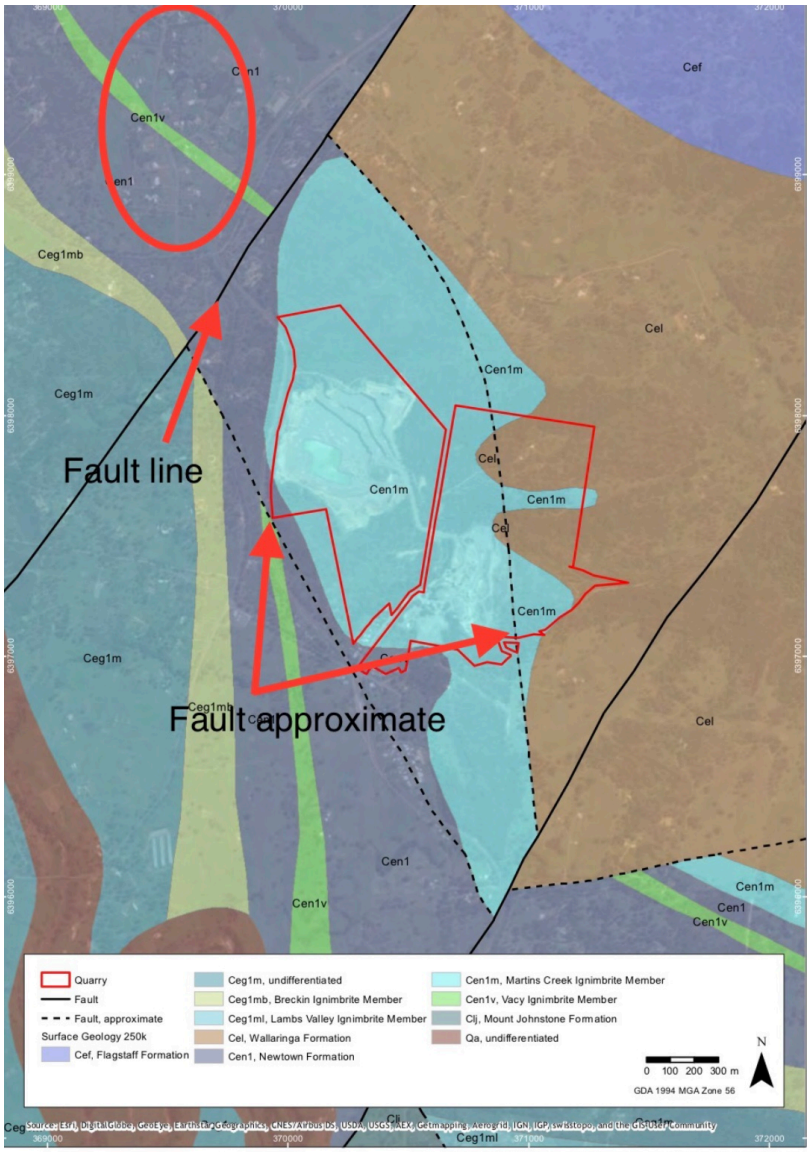
- quarrying activity on the higher benches to be scheduled for times when the dominant prevailing weather conditions do not enhance the noise propagation towards the receivers to the west and north of the West Pit. Quarrying activity on the higher benches to be prioritised when the appropriate conditions occur

- re-scheduling drilling in exposed locations for periods when the weather conditions do not enhance the noise impacts

The above are some of the actions listed to be implemented if noise becomes an issue due to weather conditions.
I assume the decision to implement these actions is the quarry manager who is also responsible for fulfilling orders on time and getting trucks loaded and out the gate.

Don't see how that's a workable situation.

Questions not answered from my last submission



Surface Geology and Structures of the subject area

Martins Creek Quarry - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

FIGURE 4

Path: T:\spatial\projects\a2300\a2360_Martin_Ck_ACHA\Maps\2360_Figure_4_Geology.mxd

It is my understanding that Vacy Ignimbrite (Cen 1v on this map) is a thin band of rock 12-16 metres thickness.

Question 1

What affect do the fault lines have on ground vibration, ~~in particular when blasting on bench 4?~~

I consider this to be a reasonable question, I'm neither a geologist nor a blast consultant.

The red oval section is Paterson Valley Estate.
On 21/10/2016 a blast was conducted and the impact felt at my property was very distressing.

From the positioning of the microphone at the Gully house I assume this blast was conducted in the north/west area of Lot 6.

Blast monitor 21/10/2016 at Gully house.

Question 2

written

How many residents presently have a ~~negotiated~~ agreement with the quarry, and if any residents do have an agreement what are the terms?

The problem I see with negotiated agreements are that if a resident accepts higher noise, blasting impacts that just moves the issue onto the next most affected resident.