

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Submission Against the Proposed Martin's Creek Quarry Expansion

I am writing to express significant concern regarding the Daracon Group's proposal to expand operations at the Martin's Creek Quarry. The simple fact that the Daracon Group were previously on record as operating illegally but are now being considered to be allowed to expand their operations in spite of significant public opposition should be enough to halt the application. How can this company be trusted to operate legally, essentially rewarded after operating outside the law for so long?

The Local State Representative for Maitland, The Honourable Jenny Aitchison MP in the winter edition of her newsletter, Maitland Matters has clearly stated that she is advocating strongly to address the significant traffic management matters in the Maitland community. Adding up to 280 truck movements to roads within the Maitland Community won't help the issues that are already present.

The social impact of Daracon's proposal are significant. Our property backs on to Tocal Road on the outskirts of Maitland. When Daracon were operating illegally the noise from the trucks, the behaviour of the drivers, the dust and pollution kicked up as they passed through made our back yard a space that was unusable. When the trucks were coming through the noise was constant and we had to consider double glazing our windows, shoring up all gaps and even building a protective screen as I had personally witnessed Daracon truck drivers pulling up on the side of the road directly adjacent to the back of our property and urinating through our back fence, leaving rubbish and generally impacting on our privacy within our own home.

Impact on our property aside the environmental impact needs to be considered and should present a strong deterrent to the expansion of the quarry that will necessitate a significant increase to the traffic in the local area.

Daracon Group, nor the governing body has done an adequate job of articulating the benefit of the quarry to the local community. The Truck drivers will likely be contractors with no permanent employment, the mine itself is not a large employer by local standards and the negative impact to the environment and the local community are significantly negative to make the determination to decline the application to approve the expansion the only logical decision.

Further to my opposition to the expansion I would like the following questions responded to publicly.

1. What is the product that will be mined from the quarry used to create? Is there anywhere else it can be mined without significant social and environmental impact?
2. If this DA is approved how will Daracon ensure that the vehicles along the route operate safely, within speed limits minimising noise through residential areas.
3. Will any consideration be given to providing noise barriers along the haulage route should this development application be successful?