

30 July 2021

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Martins Creek Quarry Expansion Submission:

Concern Over Traffic Movements Past Tocal College

Tocal College is aware of the application by Daracon and Umwelt to triple rock extraction from the quarry at Martins Creek and the forecast increase of truck movements of up to 280 per day. In considering this application, please note the location of the College, the nature of its operation and the associated risks that need consideration.

Background

Tocal College is a Registered Training Organisation operated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries to deliver education and training services for agriculture and related industries. It is part of the Tocal Agricultural Centre, a Centre of Excellence within NSW Department of Primary Industries, located on Tocal Road, Paterson. It consists of the CB Alexander Campus of Tocal College, Tocal Field Days, Tocal Homestead, Regional Services and Regulatory program and the Hunter Local Land Services (LLS).

The work of the College includes a full-time residential program operated from Paterson using commercially operated farms located on the 2200hectare property. The main farm enterprises are beef cattle, dairying, horse breeding, and free-range egg production, with a small sheep flock and some cropping.

Each year there are around 100 students aged from 16 -20 that live on site. There are 118 staff on site to support this training, run the farms, and deliver the work of NSW Department of Primary Industries and Hunter Local Land Services. The residential facilities, classroom and offices are on the western side of the road. The dairy, motel-style accommodation and Local Land Services are on the eastern side.

The College is also a community resource with groups using the facilities on a regular basis for events such as cross-country athletics carnivals, craft workshops, conferences, and other gatherings. There is also a pool that is available to the local community. On average 54,000 people visit the site each year. This does not include the annual field days, which drew 28,000 people to the site from Friday 30 April to Sunday 2 May this year.

The property fronts onto Tocal Road for 4.6 kms, spanning the eastern and western sides of Tocal Road with 8 traffic entrances and exits roads to the property. This includes the main entrance to the College on the western side of Tocal Road and to the Hunter LLS on the eastern side plus entrances to the Tocal Homestead, farms and farmhouses. There are a further 5 livestock access gates and crossings. This is a single lane road and vehicle access to these areas does not include turning lanes.

Safety risks

There are three safety aspects that need consideration in reviewing this application, and mitigation should it be approved.

1. **Vehicle movements** entering and existing the College main entrance on the western side of Tocal Road and Hunter LLS and other farms and facilities on the eastern side. There is no turning lane and this is a single lane road. Vehicles are entering and existing throughout the day as well as crossing from one side to the other to access different areas of the property.
2. **Pedestrian movements.** Students are required as part of their formal study to work in a variety of aspects of the farms including the dairy. They are rostered on to milk throughout the week. The dairy is located on the eastern side of the road while the students reside on the western side so need to cross Tocal Road every day for milking in the morning and afternoon. Staff and guests are also doing this as they access different facilities.
3. **Movement of farm machinery and equipment.** From time to time, depending on the stage of the season, farm machinery and equipment is moved about the property via Tocal Road.

Based on the use of Tocal Road by students, staff and the community in interacting with Tocal College and its environment in vehicles and as pedestrians, the increased truck movements present a heightened safety risk. It is requested that this is considered in reviewing the application and that should it be approved, risk mitigation measures are considered and applied.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Hooke', written in a cursive style.

James Hooke
Deputy Principal