

Martins Creek Quarry Expansion – Application No SSD-6612

Lisa Ellicott

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To Whom it may Concern

I oppose the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion.

I am writing this submission to oppose the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion on the basis that the application submitted by Daracon is not suitable for the rural, historic environment that will be affected by the proposal.

I am a born and bred Paterson community member with my family living in the district for numerous generations. I regularly return to my family home in the town and have seen and experienced the significant impacts that have occurred particularly during the illegal operation of the Quarry in the 2000s when I was still living at home.

Growing up in the 80's and 90's you would have never known there was a quarry nearby - you only were aware of the few trains that went through the town and when you visited the local tip at Martins Creek you knew that rail corp had a source for rail ballast used in track work etc.

By the time I was in high school and university in the 2000s you could see that something had changed. The big difference was that there were more trucks on the roads all day everyday. As a brand new p-plater I regularly noticed and was scared of the large trucks that were all over the roads heading to Maitland and Raymond Terrace. Most noticeable were the trucks that were carting materials for Port Waratah Coal Services with the orange stickers that were heading to Kooragang Island. The wear and tear of these trucks on the local roads were significant, particularly heading outwards from the quarry when the trucks were heaviest. I once even got a blown tyre after hitting a pothole on Tocal Road near Mindaribba.

Since the quarry reverted back to suitable operating conditions after the court case loses in the Land and Environment Court the truck movements have been much better and the town has been thriving.

I am concerned that the new proposal will cause significant damages to the following

- Local roads including pedestrian safety, wear and tear and on street parking access
- Environment - Land clearing of pristine Koala Habitat and loss of biodiversity including impacts of trucks on wildlife - many drivers who would not care if they hit any native wildlife - thus increasing the demand for local wildlife carers
- Village Amenity - Paterson, Martins Creek and Vacy are beautiful historic villages that attract many tourists. They were never meant for large industrial operations and the quarry will impact on livability, businesses, livelihoods and property values

There has also been no recent community consultation outside a small radius of Martins Creek - no consultation for residents on truck routes from Paterson to Maitland.

As a member of the Paterson Rural Fire Brigade I am also concerned about the increasing risks of significant emergency industrial incidents including fires, fuel leaks and vehicle accidents which could result from this dramatic expansion in tonnage extracted. The small town is a fair distance from HAZMAT, Ambulance and Maitland Hospital. The first on scene will always be the local rural fire brigades and it is unfair to them to have to be burdened with this added risk to personal and mental health if a devastating accident were to occur.

Based on previous demonstrated evidence Daracon blatantly operated without any regard to conditions, environmental controls, monitoring, reporting and compliance. It was all about profit margins. All trust was lost in the greed of the company. There are many quarry supply options already available in the region that does not require endless trucks to go through a small town.

The submissions already received also have a high amount of "Token" support from random people who do not reside or have connections to the local community. These should hold little weighting when compared to people who would be actually impacted daily by this proposal.

In summary the proposal for the quarry operations

- Has way to high of a yearly extraction amount
- Has way too many truck movements per day - more needs to go by rail instead of trucks
- Has too much impact on the local environment and biodiversity

Please take the local community concerns with this proposal seriously.

Kind Regards,

Lisa Ellicott

I have not made any political donations.