

I oppose the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion.

I strongly object to the expansion of Martins Creek Quarry on the grounds they can not prove they will not harm the residents, community or environment.

PERSONAL HISTORY - 1.3.2 LAND USE, ZONING AND LAND OWNERSHIP

1. I have lived at Paterson Valley Estate Vacy for over 22 years.

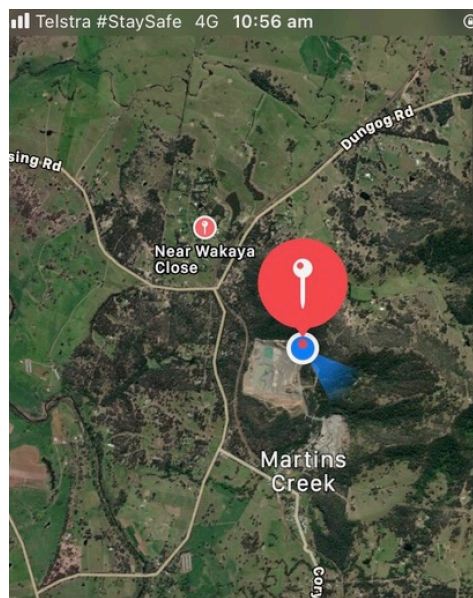
2. Paterson Valley Estate Vacy (View street & Wakaya Close) **zoned R5 Large Residential** consisting of 32 lots with the first homes being built in 1984.

3. When I first moved to Vacy we could not hear or see the quarry (it was small surrounded by trees) and I was happy knowing that the regulations of Monday to Friday with 70% of the Rail Ballast being transported by rail and 30% by trucks (24 trucks per day) at 300,000 tons per year as per Dungog Shire Council (DSC) 1991 Consent Conditions and Environment Impact Statement (EIS) July 1990. It was a Railway Ballast Quarry.

4. Paterson Valley Estate Vacy is between less than 1 kilometre to under 2 kilometres from Martins Creek Quarry boundary. Martins Creek Quarry extended towards us at an alarming rate we did not choose to live near a quarry. The tonnage was exceeded to what was allowed in the original consent conditions plus quarrying through The Crown Road (Paper Road).

4. Now Martins Creek Quarry does not reflect that of 26 years ago. Locals would walk along the Paper Road (now quarried through and fenced off), to the railway station, vegetation has disappeared, now there is the use of crushers, mobile crushers, dust, blasting, vibration, noise and convoys of truck and dogs plus a pug mill when in operation.

Today if you hike to the back of Merchants Road you are confronted with a vastly different landscape as you look down from what was once attractive bush land. The comparison of 1998 to now is huge and out of step with the community. Having **no buffer zones** this threatens the health and safety of the community plus environment.



A View from the back boundary of Merchants Road Martins Creek and
Martins Creek Quarry Boundary 2021



A View of bush land Martins Creek Quarry Boundary



STATE SIGNIFICANT

1. Daracon I believe have overstated the significance of Andesite rock (which is not rare) from Martins Creek Quarry as a State Significant resource. Martins Creek Quarry is not the only hard rock quarry in the Hunter Valley. Hard Rock (equivalent or similar) can be sourced elsewhere in more suitable and appropriate locations (away from harming residents, better transport access, buffer zones). Therefore Daracons - Martins Creek Quarry should not be classed as State significant as alternatives are available.

2. I reference Geologist Dale Sims ABC radio Thursday 24th June 2021 who confirmed that there are plenty of quarries who can supply such product.

3. Daracon could source their supplies for their developments through those other quarries.

3. I note that development, construction did not stop when the Martins Creek Quarry closed.

I disagree with Daracon's statement in the *The Revised Project will also provide for secured availability of construction materials for local markets owing to the availability of hard rock from other quarries.*

ECONOMIC

Negative costs outweigh that of any benefit.

1. **Tourism:** Expansion of Martins Creek Quarry will cause harm to our local economy deterring tourism greatly and as a result hurt local businesses. A down turn in local businesses trading in goods & services, hospitality, tourism, cycling groups, motor bike and car enthusiasts and wedding functions along haul roads.
2. **Costs to the state and federal governments;** health (hospitalisation, increased rates of respiratory disease, dust caused diseases such as cancers. mental health due to noise, lack of sleep, loss of social amenity. Accidents caused by the truck movements. Ongoing costs to roads, bridges, infrastructure.
3. **Costs borne by the residents;** loss of property values, health, blasting/vibration damage to buildings. I ask at what price do you put on human health and well being?
4. Costs to local and surrounding road users being delayed due to traffic disruption from the build up of traffic caused by quarry trucks.

Alternative economic

1. Jobs will be picked up by other quarries (no doubt Daracon's competitors)
2. The net revenue benefit to the state will be picked up by other quarries with appropriate infrastructure.
3. if Daracon can not financially run Martins Creek Quarry at 300,000 tons per year then it should close down.

My lived experience has shown **no** positive impact for economic advantage to myself or the community owing to the **negative** impacts on (Health, roads, safety, tourism, devaluation & damage of our homes, adverse visual & physical impacts on heritage, loss of social amenity and lifestyle, difficult to quantify but they are no less real) to our community by Daracon & Martins Creek Quarry.

DE-VALUATION OF HOMES.

1. Pamela Munson (Pamela Munson Country Estates) has advised that there will be impacts on marketability if the quarry goes ahead with the proposed expansion and truck movements.
2. In comparison The same house and land size next to a quarry/open cut mine impacted by pit operations and mining haul roads will be valued less than one in a quiet rural setting.
3. I ask would you put your family next to an open cut mine? (which is basically what Martins Creek Quarry has become with Daracon but wants to get larger with no adequate buffer zone).
4. Would you risk your families health, wellbeing, safety and lifestyle?
5. My inquiries prove that if the proposed expansion happens at Martins Creek Quarry our house values will fall in comparison to other rural areas and not keep up with the trends elsewhere.

8.1.2 HOURS OF TRANSPORTATION AND TRUCK MOVEMENTS

A maximum of 140 loaded product trucks per day for 50 days per year, otherwise 100 loaded product trucks per day, with a peak of:

o 20 loaded trucks per hour (40 movements), Monday to Friday between 7.00am and 3.00pm

o 15 loaded trucks per hour (30 movements), Monday to Friday between 3.00pm and 6.00pm

Between 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm, up to ten unladen Daracon trucks will return to the quarry

8.1.5 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Minimise traffic safety issues and disruption to local road users, including minimising potential for conflict with school buses

As a regular user of Dungog Road, Gresford Road through to Paterson the Tocal Road through to Maitland I strongly oppose to the number of trucks in Daracon's submission for Martins Creek Quarry due to unacceptable risks to myself, other motorists, truck drivers and the community.

No more than 40 trucks movements per hour.

1. 40 truck movements an hour is unacceptable on our country roads.
2. What proportion of these trucks in these movements are truck and dog?
3. **Coal trucks** which would be similar to that in weight and size of a quarry truck were stopped from using Wangi Wangi Road Wangi Wangi decades ago and still do due to accidents plus negative impacts to roads. Re: Application Number: MP10_0080-Mod-2. Roads in our district are similar to Wangi Wangi (I grew up in this region) with the added issues of Gostwyck Bridge (one way), railway lines to cross plus moving through the centre of Paterson Township. Likewise no Quarry trucks equivalent to that of coal trucks should be used in our area.
4. My lived experience has seen significant traffic build up (causing delays) due to trucks. then as a result getting sandwiched many times in a convoy of trucks/truck & dogs blocking vision of the on coming road conditions which is a safety risk. Daracon cannot guarantee this will not happen again.
5. Have had chipped/broken windscreens which I had to replace from stones/rocks from trucks. Road surfaces damaged with pot holes causing damage to tyres which also pose a risk of accident.
6. Seen trucks cross over due to their size to the wrong side of the road.
7. Gostwyck Bridge (historic one way bridge) has been in the past whilst Daracon was operating constantly under repaired.
8. I feel Gostwyck Bridge's historical significance needs to be preserved and will only deteriorate under such excessive loads and grossly inadequate for truck & dog plus poses safety issues. I have seen the surface damage done in the past by trucks.
9. Significant risk to cyclists. I have had to give up cycling in the past when Daracon was operating due to the frightening safety issues with quarry trucks.
10. Diesel exhaust from gravel trucks generate nitrogen oxide, Sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds. This will adversely affect the health of residents with 200 to 280 truck movements per day and is totally unacceptable.

Proposed new bridge exit from Quarry via Dungog Road.

1. Unacceptable due to its location near a crest and heavy fog in winter creating poor visibility.
2. Too close to residents by **passing the problem** of Station Street to other residences on Dungog Road and surrounding residential areas with noise (changing truck gears whilst going up the hill and turning), lights and air pollution, dust and a **negative visual impact on amenity**.

Paterson Village/Township

I believe it is essential to have safe access to a post office or business along with parking in front. That's traditional in country towns. Carrying parcels across the Road is unacceptable due to safety. The parking around the post office is regularly used for short parcel pickups and should stay.

1. Pedestrians put at risk. Trucks, especially Truck and dogs poses a risk to everyone including the elderly, children & disabled. heavy loaded trucks can not stop with a child that may run out on a road or an elderly person not quick enough to cross the road with the huge number of trucks at peak reaching 1.5 trucks per minute and that could change due to traffic build up and hold ups which we have seen in the past with convoys of trucks. You do not see coal trucks in villages so why are Quarry trucks allowed?
2. The history/rural village appeal is what makes Paterson so special and one which I am proud of is put at significant risk giving a negative **impact on social amenity**.
3. Making such changes also will affect tourism and certainly I will not or would not like to sit in the adjacent cafes with the noise & fumes of trucks.
4. Cumulative impact of vibrating trucks causing damage to buildings. Vibrate or shake any structure (especially historic older buildings) long enough and something has to give.

Daracon can not guarantee or prove they will not cause harm or irrevocable damage to the health, environmental, historical significance, life style, social amenity and personal safety of residents through the use of such large numbers of trucks.

The words mitigation of potential negative impacts, minimise and predicted rings alarms that there are unacceptable risks. I strongly oppose to any expansion to Martins Creek Quarry.

Done

2015May6TrucksMartinsCk_e.jpeg



Done

2018GraceAveTruckOverLines.jpeg



2015AprilMCtrucksgoingin9ish_e.jpeg





(Exiting above) Voageles Road Martins Creek (below)



8.1.4 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

Daracon will develop and implement a SIMP for the Revised Project in consultation with DSC, the CCC, affected communities (including Martins Creek and Paterson) and other interested stakeholders (to the greatest extent practicable). The SIMP will:

identify negative social impacts resulting from the development both locally and regionally

specify adaptive management and mitigation measures to avoid, minimise, and/or mitigate negative social impacts

identify opportunities to secure and enhance positive social impacts of the development, including opportunities to:

assist in maintaining community services and facilities

improve the way of life, wellbeing, and social cohesion within the local community

Daracon expansion of Martins Creek Quarry will damage our way of life, negatively affect our amenity so no amount of SIMP or assistance to community services and facilities will be of help.

Daracon can not guarantee they will not harm myself or the community having to minimise or mitigate negative social impacts.

Dust monitor Gully House
Martins Creek 2021



Blasting.

Daracon Information sheet 3. May 2021 Page 9 Daracon Will implement the appropriate blast management controls necessary to meet the relevant criteria for private residential receivers, heritage items and infrastructure.

1. I live in **a large two storey** home. **When Peter Bellairs was questioned if a two storey home would be more impacted by blasting he answered “yes”.** Therefore the blasting/noise vibration results must be higher which has not been taken into consideration.
2. I have been told that the blast monitoring is under the limit but I question this as to the noise and vibration I have personally felt.
3. My lived experience is of windows and china rattling, blasting ground vibrations felt through my body, plus photos and paintings move on the wall.
4. All blasts are NOT the same. I have personally lived through many to know this. If the quarry becomes larger (more blasts or bigger blasts will occur) there is no certainty that we will not be negatively affected. They only give us predictions. They can not be certain.
4. I worry about the long term cumulative impact and damage to our home which Daracon has not taken into a count. Over time any object subjected to shaking/vibration will have damage.
5. Noise related to blasting **DBA reading** not listed but very relevant to what is audible to the human ear. This is not nuisance noise and should be taken into account.
6. My social amenity is negatively impacted by blasting. The noise, worry, damage, dust and loss of vegetation, safety and visual impact. You can not enjoy being outside in the garden.

There is no assurance or guarantee (Daracon's submission uses the words, mitigation, projections, unlikely or estimates) that there will no damage to our home or harm health as I have lived the experience before without satisfactory solutions and I find this unacceptable especially without a buffer zone.

AIR QUALITY

A comprehensive assessment of potential air quality impacts of the Revised Project has been completed, in accordance with relevant Environment Protection Authority guidelines. This assessment confirms that the Revised Project is not predicted to result in any exceedance of the applicable criteria that relate to dust or particulate matter in the air, blast fumes, or diesel exhaust emissions.

During community engagement, concerns were also raised in relation to the potential health impacts of crystalline silica. Ambient monitoring of respirable crystalline silica was conducted at the quarry boundary which, together with considering the relevant modelling and assessment, the air quality specialist concluded that the Revised Project is not expected to cause adverse air quality impacts with respect crystalline silica.

CRYSTALLINE SILICA & DUST

1. **One Day Testing** For Crystalline Silica is unconvincing and does not stand up to good practice.
2. Random samples should be taken from all over the quarry including the pug mill, crushing sites, stock piles and dust deposited on buildings plus surrounding areas eg Paterson Valley Estate Vacy and in Paterson Village. Has this been done? Was the testing done whilst the quarry was operating?
3. Dust does not stop at the quarry boundary.
4. Silica dust can become airborne due to its lightness and travel outside of the quarry boundary.
5. Crystalline Silica dust can kill and Exposure through quarrying activity is a known issue, with risks especially during rock crushing activities or after blasting.
6. Reference of dangers including quarries by Doctor Karl Kruszelnicki's short video (Safe Work South Australia) <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/chemicals-substances-and-explosives/silica>
7. During The Crushing Operation The Greater The Reduction In Size The Higher The Emissions Therefore More Dust.
8. Silica Dust Can Lead To The Development Of Lung Cancer, Silicosis, Kidney Disease And Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.
9. Joanna Mcneill a 34-year-old, who was diagnosed in 2019 with silicosis after working at Boral Quarry in Montrose in an administration office for 7 years and was only diagnosed through a medical checkup.
10. Inadequate Monitoring Is alarming due to the physical evidence of dust that I have experienced in my home whilst Martins Creek Quarry was operating. Have We Already Been Affected By Crystalline Silica Dust? There Is No Monitor In Our Estate.
11. Let This Not Be Like Asbestos. Action is needed now and that includes monitoring not only in the quarry but the surrounding areas.
12. Our nearest monitor is near the gully house and although approved by the EPA is hardly high tech putting residents at risk. See photo
13. **Global Warming & Climate Change**. Daracon have based there outcomes on past weather conditions. Therefore past weather conditions can not be relied upon for forecasting weather eg wind directions and force due to climate change.
14. Summers have been unprecedented with extreme heat so evaporation rates are high causing more evaporation and therefore more dust. This will impact negatively on trucks which have their loads watered down not being able to keep down the impact of dust due to evaporation.

15. My lived experience and evidence of dust in my home when the quarry was operating proves dust does not stop at the quarry boundary.
16. My Social amenity is negatively effected as I can not open my windows whilst the quarry was operating.

There is no assurance or guarantee that Daracon - Martins Creek Quarry will not harm the communities and residents health (the words not expected) is no assurance. Global warming and climate change contribute to the uncertainty. I disagree that there has been a comprehensive assessment with only one day testing on Crystalline silica which is both alarming and unacceptable.

BIODIVERSITY

Environment

Whilst Daracon has strived to minimise impacts on biodiversity through the design process, not all impact could be avoided by the proposed design and a detailed assessment of the impacts was undertaken of the Revised Project. The Revised Project will require the additional disturbance of approximately 21 ha of native vegetation from within the 127 ha of the Project Area.

Land based offsets through the establishment of new Stewardship Sites purchasing credits from the market, and/or paying into the Biodiversity Conservation fund

Disruption of local wildlife corridors, wildlife and vegetation life ecosystems both on land, watercourses, in and around the sites that immediately adjoins Martins Creek Quarry will not be helped by Land based offsets, purchasing credits or paying into the biodiversity conservation fund.

They Daracon admit could not be avoided and again the word minimise impacts so they are admitting to harm. This will also extend beyond the quarry boundary. The risks outweigh the benefits which is why I strongly object to any expansion of Martins Creek Quarry.

KOALAS

Facts.

1. Koalas are fussy eaters.
2. A colony will only eat what food source they have grown up with. Is this available?
3. Eucalyptus glauca (Slaty Red Gum) is endemic to Dungog Shire and as you will see from Riverdene Koala Fact Sheet that it is a secondary support tree for Koala colonies.
4. Lack of vegetative corridors put koalas at risk. Many of these corridors have disappeared.
5. Is there a viable escape route or would the koalas be left on the ground for an extended period to try and reach a safe haven?
6. A koala on the ground is highly vulnerable to all sorts of predators including dogs.
7. In my lived experience I have witnessed koalas of varying sizes crossing Dungog Road, Traveling on the ground in View Street and Wakaya Close Vacy.
8. See photo Wakaya Close, Vacy

SPOTTED TAIL QUOLL OR TIGER QUOLL (DASYURUS MASULATUS)

Are known in the area

Ref: Koala Habitat & Wildlife Study by William M. Dowling April 1997

Sightings at Black Rock Road, Mt Douglas Martins Creek.

Spotted Tail Quoll being endangered needs protecting and will be adversely impacted by bulldozing of 21 hectares of its habitat.

I oppose clearing 21 hectares of land due to putting both the Koala and Spotted Tail Quoll at risk by removing their habitat.

Koala on ground Wakaya Close Vacy



FACT SHEET - KOALAS HABITATS

KOALA HABITATS ON THE EAST COAST OF AUSTRALIA

Koala's feed primarily, but not exclusively, on the genus *Eucalyptus*. They are fussy feeders that survive on locally available Eucalypts as their primary food source. Koala populations often exhibit a preference for certain local species to form their principal diet. Such species are vitally important to the distribution, abundance and well-being of the koala populations. Introduction of random species from a generalised list of Koala Food Trees will not attract or support a local Koala population unless it is already their preferred source of food, in fact introduction of non-preferentially utilised species can be detrimental to maintaining or expanding an existing Koala habitat. Throughout their range in eastern Australia, koalas have been recorded as using a wide but differing variety of eucalypt species from habitat to habitat.

A variety of other trees, including many non-eucalypts, are also used by koalas for feeding and shelter, or other behavioural purposes. On their own, however, these trees are not capable of sustaining koalas long term. They are used primarily because they are growing in association with or in close proximity to the key tree species. Differing soil landscapes, water availability and other variables influence the suitability of companion and browsing species.

In an average koala habitat, the home range of each individual animal will overlap with the home range of other koalas. Within each animal's home range area are a relatively small number of trees that are visited repeatedly, some of which are shared with other animals in the population. Such trees can be described as "home range" trees and are very important because they enable a population to maintain social cohesion.

The home range area required by a koala varies in response to social factors and habitat quality. The sex of the animal is also important, with male koalas tending to occupy larger home range areas of lower quality habitat than females. The home ranges of dominant, breeding male will overlap those of several adult females. In a stable breeding habitat, some koalas can retain the same home range throughout their entire lives. Other koalas will leave their maternal home range to establish a home range of their own. These animals are capable of extensive movements, often in excess of 40-50km over periods of a few weeks to several months.

Breeding activity on the part of the mother usually initiates the dispersal of young from her previous breeding season. The movements and survival of these dispersing animals are significant because only the strongest will survive the relocation to contribute genetic vigour and diversity to other populations. It is not so much the presence of preferred food trees that influences the movements of these animals as it is their need to be with other koalas. In this regard, established koala populations will attract dispersing animals from other populations. The presence of koala food trees may not encourage the establishment of new populations but it will support the transient koala and may provide for the expansion of the range of an existing population.



FACT SHEET - KOALAS HABITATS

General East Coast Tree List

Main Food Species	Coastal	Hinterland
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>		X
<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>		X
<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i>	X	X
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>		X
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	X	X
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>		X

Ancillary Feeding & Support Species	Coastal	Hinterland
<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	X	
<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i>	X	
<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	X	X
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>		X
<i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>	X	
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>		X
<i>Eucalyptus paniculata</i>		X
<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>	X	
<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>		X
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	X	

DUNGOG LGA SPECIFIC KOALA HABITAT TREE LIST

1. *Eucalyptus punctata* and/or *Eucalyptus canaliculata*. This latter form is utilised by the local Koalas. My research has shown that *E. punctata* extends to the general area of Paterson and then intergrades to *E. canaliculata*. From Vacy to the north it is always pure *E. canaliculata*
2. *Eucalyptus tereticornis* - Forest Red Gum – A primary food species.
3. *Eucalyptus amplifolia* – Cabbage Gum – As for Point 2. above.
4. *Eucalyptus patinteneris* - A naturally occurring hybrid that seems to be avidly eaten by Koalas.
5. *Eucalyptus parramattensis* var *decadens*

All the above should comprise the bulk of any planting to maintain or enhance a Koala habitat in the Dungog LGA.

Secondary Species within the Dungog LGA

The species below comprise those that are used as secondary food species and as shelter or for socialising.

1. *Eucalyptus microcorys* – Tallowood
2. *Eucalyptus glaucina* – Slaty Red Gum
3. *Eucalyptus saligna* – Blue Gum
4. *Eucalyptus paniculata* – Grey Ironbark

Understorey Species for Habitat Protection

1. *Acacia falcata*
2. *Acacia longifolia*
3. *Allocasuarina torulosa*
4. *Callistemon pinifolius*



Strange Looking Water coming from Martins Creek Quarry



WATER RESOURCES – SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER

1. Again we are not guaranteed by Daracon - Martins Creek Quarry will not adversely effect our precious Water Resource with the words. **Not expected, not predicted** to have significant impacts they give no guarantee they will not harm.
2. Changes to the water table which are hard to predict with the added risk of climate change could be expensive or even impossible to repair should Daracon's predictions be wrong.
3. In my living experience I have witnessed very strange looking water (see photo) coming from Martins Creek Quarry especially during heavy rains.
4. Are chemicals used to treat water used in the quarry? If so what type of chemicals and the quantity used?
5. I ask this question after viewing the dam from the back of Merchants Road. See photos.
6. Global Warming and climate change. Has Daracon taken into account the unpredictability of climate change in floods and drought with the risks involved through their operation to water resources?



View of Martins Creek Quarry Dam from back of Merchants Road Martins Creek boundary



HISTORIC HERITAGE

Daracon - Martins Creek Quarry give no guarantee they will not adverse effect or damage or harm the Historic Heritage with the words *“unlikely that the Revised Project will result in any adverse visual or physical impacts to the heritage significance of the HCAs or individually listed heritage items.”*

“The implementation of mitigation measures to address traffic impacts are expected to prevent any impacts on heritage values associated with quarry truck movements.”

1. Historic heritage and tourism go hand in hand along with the peaceful rural setting that makes Paterson so special and which the local community is so proud of are at risk.
2. Laden trucks/truck and dogs are not invisible and detract tourist, cyclist and take away the ambiance which will harm the Historic heritage.
3. Vibration from trucks/truck & dogs over a long time must add to the cumulative negative effect on old buildings. Eg post office and old CBC building. Shake anything long enough and cracks will appear. I had friends who use to live on a major highway and the evidence was there.

Paterson Post Office Corner and Old CBC. Building.



8.1.6 NOISE

8.1.1 HOURS OF OPERATION

Necessary maintenance activities and/or environmental management controls, including vehicles/trucks moving in and out of the quarry for maintenance purposes as required will be undertaken 24 hours seven days per week.

Rail bridge and associated works over the Northern Railway Line may be undertaken 24 hours per day, seven days a week to suit rail shutdown periods.

Rail loading and transportation may occur 24 hours per day, seven days a week

NOISE POLLUTION AT NIGHT

1. 24 Hours 7 days a week from industry noise especially at night is unacceptable.
2. Trains are noisy when shunting and loading. I do not find it necessary for any expansion of the railway spur extension if the original consent order of 300,000 tons remained.
3. Is there room on the railway line to support Martins Creek Quarry Operations?
4. noise echoes and living in a two storey house I am more effected.
5. lack of sleep due to Martins Creek Quarry night time operations can lead to many health issues resulting in reduced decision-making skills, judgement, alertness and involuntary micro sleep which is a danger if driving.
6. I refer to the <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/sleep-deprivation#symptoms-of-sleep-deprivation-in-adults>

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/noise> below

Short-term effects of noise can be annoying, as it can

- interfere with speech
- disturb sleep
- interrupt work

Prolonged exposure to loud noise can result in

- anxiety
- other health effects

The impacts of noise depend on the noise level, its characteristics and how it is perceived by the person affected.

NOISE IMPACTS FROM CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. LOADING OPERATIONS FURTHER AWAY FROM RECEIVERS.

Reasonable and feasible physical noise control measures and operational noise controls are proposed for the life of the Revised Project to further improve noise mitigation.

The extension of operations in the West Pit, the use of the new access road, and evening and night-time rail loading activities have all been assessed against the more stringent criteria for 'new development'. There are a number of residences that are predicted to be marginally or moderately impacted, with the three closest residences predicted to experience significant impacts during night-time rail loading activities. In accordance with the DPIE's Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy (2018), the significant and moderately impacted residences will be subject to proactive noise management and monitoring to guide operations and minimise the potential impacts of the Revised Project.

Daracon - Martins Creek Quarry do not deem that we have a noise problem.

1. I live just over the one kilometre from the quarry boundary in a two story house. Has this been taken into consideration re noise assessment?
2. I am not technical but I can tell you our noise levels are greater in my experience than that of my neighbour directly opposite but they have a higher reading.
3. I do not understand how they technically rate each resident but my living experience questions their methodology.

A recent example being

8th June 2021. The noise from the quarry was so loud it could be heard inside our home with the windows and doors shut, both down and upstairs. The noise outside was hideous. Constant metal and rock, turns out Daracon - Martins Creek Quarry were "mobile crushing" in Lot 5. I was not the only neighbour to hear this as noise seems to echo in Paterson Valley Estate Vacy. This was not my imagination it actually happened.

"Quarries are noisy. Rock and metal create noise. Noise from blasting, stone crushers, (including mobile crushers) haulage truck traffic, bulldozers, loaders, and general **noise** from the operation of multiple plants within the quarry operation." A recipe that does not agree with residential housing.

I strongly oppose to the Daracon Martins Creek Quarry expansion due to

1. Daracon do not recognise the issues of noise to myself and family.
2. Daracon can not prove they will not harm myself or families health with not expected, not predicted and potential impacts relating to noise which is unacceptable.
3. 25 years is a long time to be subjected to constant industrial noise.

LACK OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

MEETINGS WITH UMWELT

1. Too limited in numbers of attendees to reflect the general community concerns.
2. Many issues (which we were well aware of) were rushed and limited time to discuss. It almost seemed like tick we have covered that.
3. I stopped going to the meetings as I felt it was not achieving solutions for the community which is evident by reading their information sheets.
4. Late delivery including Information sheet 3 to Paterson Valley Estate Vacy. Delivered 11th June 2021
5. Photos do not reflect the whole quarry whilst working in their information sheet 3.

Example of not been taken seriously

8th June 2021 I emailed Daracon, to make them aware of the excessive noise I experience at Paterson Valley Estate Vacy.

I was not included in the 70 properties assessed as being marginally or moderately impacted by the Martin's Creek Quarry Extension Project.

16th July 2021 received an email from Umwelt.

I found I was not taken seriously for my lived experience. I was sent a technical response and deemed not in an area they perceive as affected by noise so no action from Daracon other than Umwelt's response.

MENTAL HEALTH

I am finding it depressing and a cause of great anxiety having lived through Daracon operations in the past from Martins Creek Quarry whilst it was operating. I truly hope with all my heart it will be stopped or our lives will be crushed.

The stress of the road conditions and convoys of trucks. Lack of sleep worrying over our health issues relating to dust.

I feel it is also affecting many of our neighbours who I care about.

The lack of sleep due to the prospect of 24 hour noise from the quarry compounds our health issues.

LOSS OF LIFE STYLE AND SOCIAL AMENITY

Decrease in our standard of living due to the negative impacts of Martins Creek Quarry Especially the devaluation of our homes.

Negative impact of landscape eg the bridge over from Martins Creek Quarry to Dungog Road along with noise, dust, light pollution, and traffic safety.

The negative visual impact of industry at our doorstep and effects surrounding our region. Trucks are not invisible.

Loss of feeling secure and protected due to the noise, dust, air quality, trucks, damaged roads and blasting.

Loss of quiet peaceful nights.

Uncertainty to potential health risk to our communities, including our children and visitors

Unable to open our house windows when the quarry is operating due to noise and dust.

Unable to cycle (which is a great joy to me) in my immediate and surrounding area due to trucks, & air quality.

Peaceful regular local walking tracks will be no longer due to air quality, noise, dust, trucks, fumes and safety

Unable to eat outside in a cafe or stand on the footpath and have a conversation in Paterson due to truck fumes, noise and the negative outlook.

Fear due lack of safety whilst driving due to the potholes and being sandwiched between trucks and buildups of traffic causing delays..

Loss of tradition and facilities eg short parking in front of Post Office.

We did not choose to live next to an industrial site.

The loss of our rural identity.

This is why we moved to Vacy 22 years ago as per Dungog Council - web site

“Welcome to Dungog Shire Council's vision for the Shire is: "A vibrant, united community, with a sustainable economy. An area where rural character, community safety and lifestyle are preserved."

As a resident of 22 years now living so close to the Martins Creek Quarry I ask the department to refuse this application due to adversely impacting on my families quality of life and that of my neighbours, & surrounding community with adverse health issues, safety and damage of roads with so many trucks, blasting noise and vibration, along with devaluation of our properties. There are alternative hard rock quarries available making Martins Creek Quarry not a State Significant resource. That the environmental, personal, economic and social cost would be too high should the quarry expand any further. Daracon's measures to mitigate risk can not be guaranteed and therefore inadequate.

In summary

I request that the department refuse this application to Daracons Martins Creek Quarry expansion on the grounds they can not prove they will not harm the residents, community or environment.

Thank you for your time.