

Dear Mr Watt

I have lived on Merchants Road, Martins Creek on an 80 acre property for 16 years. In that time I have established an animal sanctuary, and am working towards rehabilitating the remnant native vegetation across most of my property, including a stand of *Eucalyptus glaucina* on the ridgeline.

My land adjoins the quarry, and I commute daily into Paterson and weekly into Maitland through Paterson. Paterson is the closed township where I am able to access food, fuel and other supplies.

My concerns regarding the Quarry are as follows:

- I am concerned about the quantity of trucks travelling on the Dungog Road through the township of Paterson. The number of trucks proposed both impact the road quality and the safety and amenity of other road users. I don't feel that the impacts on roads in this area have been sufficiently mitigated, and frequently find myself concerned by the current quarry trucks. The proponent should be required to mitigate existing impacts on roads, and not allowed to increase those impacts.
- I am very concerned by the impacts of the project on my property, where the project adjoins my property. No attempts have been made by Daracon to provide a vegetation buffer, appropriate fencing or any other mitigation measure to ensure impacts to my land are avoided, minimised or mitigated. Without proper management of the project boundaries, weed seeds are being allowed to disperse into my property, impacting an area I am working hard to rehabilitate. To date they have already demonstrated their lack of interest in being good neighbours, and if they are allowed to expand the quarry, their lack of regard will only continue. At no point have Daracon contacted me regarding the impacts of the project on my property.
- The proponent has not adequately justified the impacts associated with an increased project on the vulnerable *Eucalyptus glaucina* which is present on that ridgeline or on Koalas which have been sighted on that ridgeline.
- The township of Martins Creeks is picturesque. The visual impact of the proposed noise wall will significantly affect the visual amenity of the town, and has the potential to impact on movements of native fauna in the area.
- The fact that Daracon have expanded their operations beyond the original provisions is evidence of their complete disregard for approval conditions and the local community. How, in the light of that, can we be assured that they will comply with any new conditions of approval?

While I support the proposal to update the approval conditions, and allow the project to fulfil it's original approval, the evidence provided in the EIS does not justify the impacts on visual and noise amenity, roads and traffic or ecological communities that would occur as the result of expanded operations.

I ask that the Department of Planning and Environment do the right thing by the ecology of the region and by the residents of Martins Creek and Paterson, and not approve an expansion of the Martins Creek Quarry.

Yours Sincerely,

Kathy Isherwood

**Requirement of most quarries:**

Water runoff is diverted around the extraction area, but contained within the site.

Water MP used to do this.