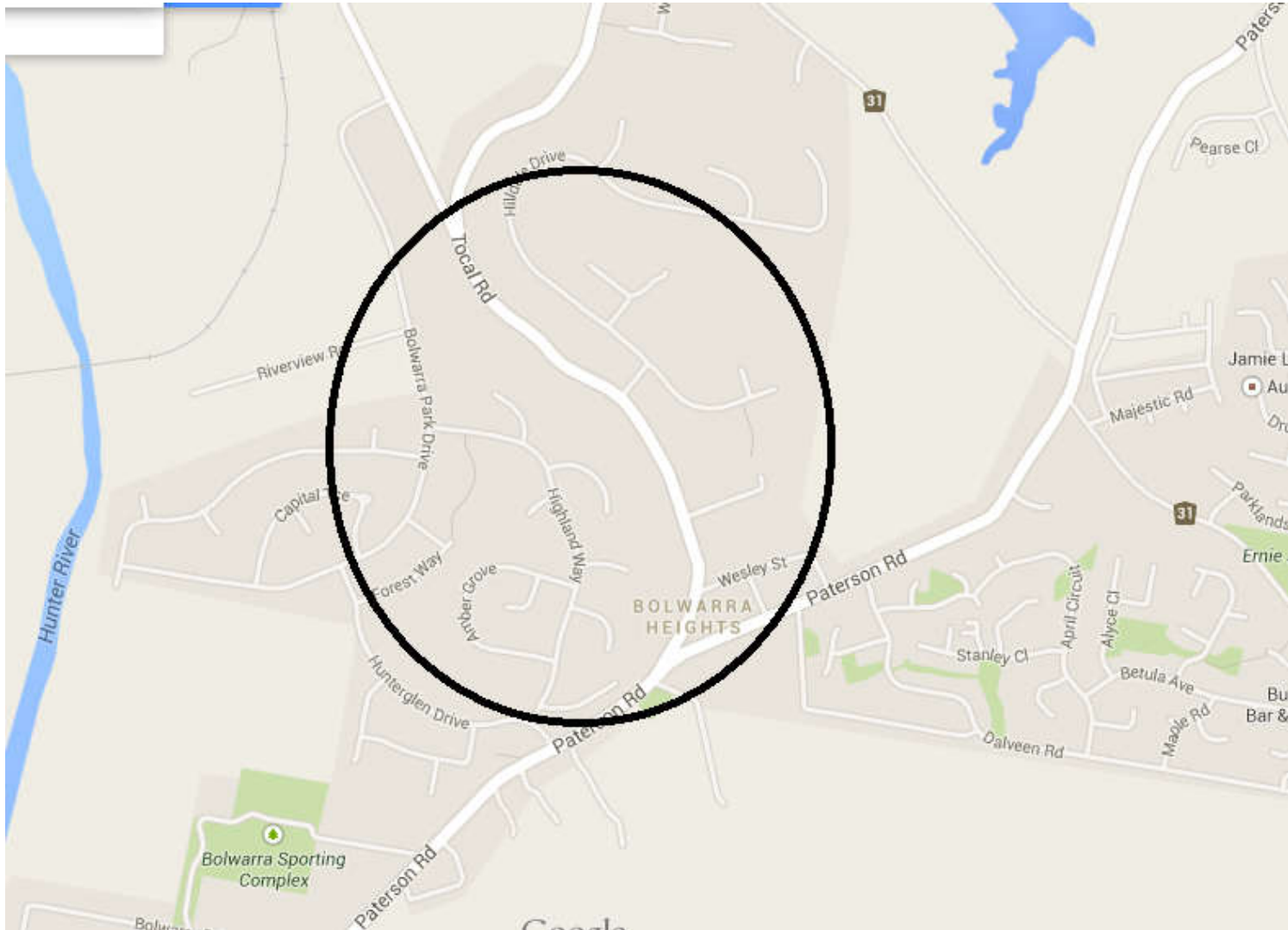


Bolwarra Heights Road Problems



The main area of our concern; Tocal Rd, Bolwarra Heights.



This section of road is barely 8mtrs wide in total, gutter to gutter. It was originally a gravel rural access road to outlying villages such as Lambs Valley and Maitland Vale. It is now the 'main road' to many Dungog Shire towns, and to the Martins Creek quarry.

Tocal Rd Problems

- Quarry 'truck and dogs' are the main concern to residents, earlier this year truck movements increased to at times 60 trucks passing per hour due to a new 'Daracon' contract to supply extra ballast rock from the Martins Creek quarry. Truck movements begin around 5:15am each day and continue Mon-Sat.
- This and other local roads already carry a large base load of heavy haulage trucks and commercial vehicles as it is the main access to towns such as Dungog, Paterson, Vacy, Gresford and its very busy farming properties.
- The speed limit is 60km/h. A fully loaded quarry truck/dog (which weigh in excess of 50T) cannot stop quickly from 60km/h in an emergency situation, there is NO room to go around/off the road.
- The road is barely 8 meters wide in places, gutter to gutter. This is not wide enough to allow even one vehicle to stop safely on either side of the road, in particular the 500mtrs from Paterson to Hilldale Rds. Cars, trucks and busses stop and even park in potentially very dangerous locations at times, especially at the start of Tocal Rd near the Bolwarra Heights petrol/service station.
- Many people of all ages use the designated footpaths, at times they are less than 2 mtrs from vehicles including fully laden trucks travelling at or in excess of 60km/h.
- Fixtures such as Power poles and sign posts are obstacles that are less than 1 mtr from the road, on the edge of the footpath. There would be no way of avoiding them or a parked car in an accident situation.
- At least 6 minor accidents have occurred within the last few years on Tocal Rd, plus many near miss situations witnessed with the quarry trucks, luckily none have progressed to serious or fatal accidents.

A typical morning at 23 Tocal Rd..... Note the road width and unavoidable potential hazards such as power poles and large trees close to the road



Area around No 7 Tocal Rd. Note again power poles and pedestrian footpath close to road. School busses pick up and drop off children in this vicinity on school days.



The Tocal Rd/Paterson Rd intersection. A invitation for potential disaster with the current amount of traffic in front of a tightly accessed Petrol Station. Any submission to increase truck movements from Brandy Hill or Martins Creek quarries along this road CANNOT be approved.

