

Objection to the Martins Creek Quarry Expansion

Approval of the Martin's Creek Quarry would be devastating for the communities in the Martin's Creek, Paterson, Bolwarra and surrounding areas and for those people who work and live and visit our rural area that has significant heritage and environmental features. The benefit to this one private company will be to the detriment and risk to all other stakeholders.

We have lived in the Paterson area for the past twenty years and have travelled daily along the local and main roads that will be devastated by the truck movements proposed by this one company. Our children catch the school buses that drive past Martin's Creek turnoff and through Paterson. Our daughter gets off the school bus in Paterson and walks along the street to work at one of the wonderful local businesses after school. Our children are learning to drive in these local streets. We are very concerned for their safety if the convoy of heavy vehicles is allowed.

Too often actions are not taken to prevent injury, death and long-term damage before it is too late.

It is astounding that the Department of Planning could not explain clearly during the Public Meeting at Total (without taking it on notice) how their approved truck volumes through Paterson, Tocal and Bolwarra could be acceptable in terms of safety, road impact and social impacts.

As a representative of the local community, I urge the commission to put the needs and concerns of our community first. Some of the unacceptable noise, social, economic and environmental impacts and risks have been outlined by the well-informed and experienced Mayor and Director of Planning and Environment of Dungog Shire Council and many community representatives.

Some of the impacts on the area include:

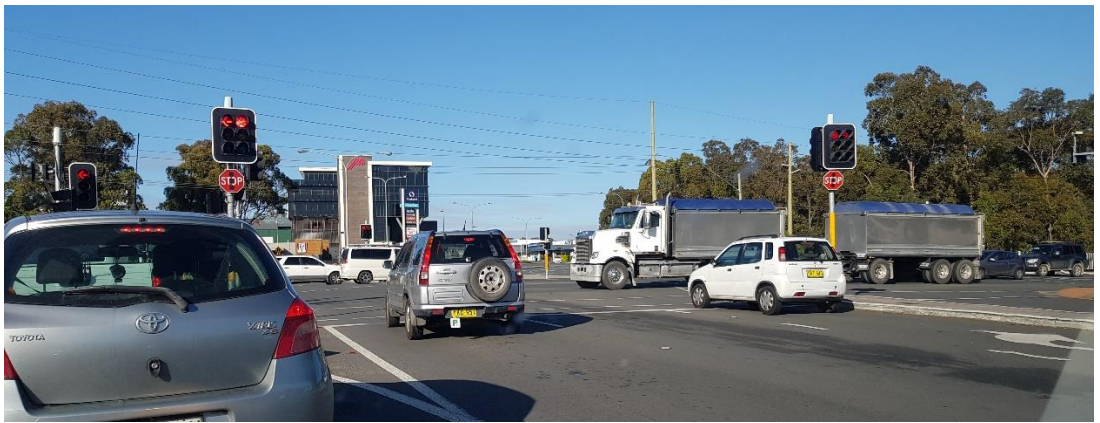
Road safety concerns

- 67% increase on top of current approvals (250000 tonne increase).
- The route includes crossing the single lane Gostwick Bridge (that has been affected by flooding over the years), a tight 90-degree bend on the corner of King and Duke Streets in Paterson and 50km per hour local roads that are already often in poor condition.
- School buses travel along and stop on the 80km and 50km per hour roads along the Haulage Route. In Paterson there are four school bus stops where children exit the buses, cross the Road and meet waiting parents.
- People park along Duke Street and King Street in Paterson (where there is already minimal space to park and safely exit the vehicles) will be at a greater risk of serious injury.
- The substantially increased traffic movement and heavy vehicles at various T-intersections along Tocal Road will become dangerous and likely force people to take risks due to, including the intersections to Paterson Road (to Woodville), Paterson Road (to Bolwarra Heights at the BP Service Station), entrance to Hunterglenn Estate Bolwarra, Bolwarra Road (especially during morning and afternoon Bolwarra Public School peak hours), Flat Road, Melbourne Street East Maitland and along the increasingly jammed highway.
- An unreasonable onus will be placed on Dungog Shire and Maitland City councils to maintain the roads due to the proposed 67% increase.

Images from the road haulage route through Paterson, Tocal, Bolwarra, East Maitland







Heritage conservation area of Paterson

- Heritage houses, post office, cafes and other buildings along King and Duke Street Paterson will be affected by both the trauma of truck movement and the reduction in value over time.



Community members that use the facilities along the haulage route will be put at risk due to 240 – 280 truck movements per day

- Customers that support the local IGA, Paterson Butchers, cafes, petrol stations, doctor, chemist, bottle shop, hotels, hairdressers, farm machinery outlets etc that are located on Duke and King Streets
- Children and parents that attend weekly dance classes in the School of Arts Hall on Duke Street
- Motor bike and cycling groups that regularly ride in groups on the local roads and stop at the local cafes, take away shops or hotels
- Thousands of people that attend events at Tucker park like cracker night, Christmas carols and other celebrations
- Guests of weddings and other events at Tocal Homestead affected by the noise and traffic due to truck movements.
- Thousands of people that attend Tocal Field Days every May.
- Church groups that meet at the churches along the route in Paterson and Bolwarra.
- Families and special needs groups that use Tucker Park most days of the week.

Environmental Impacts

- Dust fallout affecting the health of local residents.
- Rock blasting and truck movements causing noise pollution, cracking and sleep disturbances during the proposed quarry operating hours day and night from Monday to Saturday.
- Impact on local wildlife including koalas that have been found within the Martin's Creek quarry and neighbouring areas.