

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the Martins Creek Quarry Project (SSD-6612) Amended Development Application for the following reasons.

The reasons are I and the others living at our property have lived experience of what it is like as we lived through unlawful period of Daracon running quarry trucks up and down Paterson Road from early morning till late into the evening. The relentless noise was truly horrible.

All this will come back and more because Bolwarra has many more residents now. Noise from unloaded quarry trucks from 5:30am going past our place so they can get to the gravel mine in time for the opening at 7:00am. Then again relentless truck movements, both laden and unladen, and associated noise, including compression braking, up and down Paterson Road till 7:00pm as the last trucks leave the quarry at 6:00pm.

The fine black diesel particulates will be back on the house, cars, garden furniture and anything else outside. Last time I had to clean this black muck off all of the above on a weekly basis or it would get out of control and would require heavy duty cleaning products such bleach etc. I have only needed to do a normal level of cleaning since the unlawful truck movements ceased.

Getting in and out of our property is going to be far more difficult this time as Bolwarra and Largs has an increase in residents and associated vehicles and also there are trucks from the Brandy Hill Quarry using Paterson Road. Sections of Paterson Road are very narrow and have not been constructed to accommodate or with stand constant quarry truck movements for up to the life of the project, 25 years.

The road damage will be much worse, as it has been in the past during the unlawful period of operation, so the argument we need a quarry to repair roads is counterintuitive. If truck movements do not increase then the road will not require frequent repair because it will have a suburban level of traffic made up of mostly domestic vehicles as it now and not once again become a gravel mine haul road.

As a rate payer in the Maitland City Council area along with all the rate pays of Maitland, Dungog and Port Stephens Council areas why should we pay for the up keep of the roads used by the Daracon haul trucks yet again? This money would be better spent on providing sorely need community services. The damage to the roads was quite considerable when Daracon was operating unlawfully and will return again should they be allowed to increase their truck movements.

In addition, we are constantly reminded that we must all reduce our carbon foot print. Governments are formulating legislation to reduce green gas emissions therefore how can this proposal be in line with community and to degree Government expectations to reduce green house gases from fossil fuels. The increase in truck movements will increase green house gas emissions from this project. This is contrary to the will of the community. Daracon are not a responsible corporate citizen and put money ahead of the community demonstrating that they care very little about the environment and the health and well being of the communities they are impacting upon. That is, they do not care.

For the health and safety of all the people who will be affected by this project, please do not approve this project it was horrible to live with through its unlawful period making it lawful for 25 years is not going to improve the outcomes.

Pros – gravel, negligible increase in local employment opportunities, Daracon Profits.

Cons – noise, diesel particulates, dust, road damage, traffic congestion, damage to homes, road safety, poor mental health outcomes, hundreds if not thousands of people adversely affected.

Please reject this project expansion now and for the future.