

I oppose this project as proposed by the developer.

I do not oppose the quarrying of high-quality rock for gravel as it is necessary for many purposes. I do not oppose quarry product being transported via rail from the existing rail siding within the quarry. Nor do I oppose low volume road transport of product to local gravel storage sites such as a Dungog Shire Council works storage site. What I strongly oppose is the proposed volume of extraction per year and particularly the proposal of up to 500 000 tonnes of gravel per year being transported by road.

The Martins Creek quarry is located some 30 kilometres from the nearest highway with essentially rural roads in between. A serious road suitability problem is through the historic village of Paterson. The roadway is narrow with a 'T' intersection needing to be negotiated. There is daily evidence of trucks of the type being used for quarry product cutting the corner at this intersection.

Further, these rural roads have suffered considerable surface damage during the excessive weather events this year with vehicle-damaging pot holes exceeding the local authorities' ability to repair them. With the possibility of up to 280 truck movements per day initially, 200 truck movements per day thereafter and potentially 40 trucks per hour, these rural roads will be smashed, particularly in wet weather.

I know there have many objections to the previous Martins Creek quarry development proposal and this proposal is essentially the same as before. I believe all objections to the previous development should apply to this proposal. If, despite overwhelming objection to the volume of daily truck movements proposed, this proposal is approved, then I ask:

1. That truck movements be limited to a maximum of 20 per hour.
2. That it be a requirement that all truck movements should cease in wet weather conditions and not recommence until the ground has dried to a suitable level. Dungog Shire Council should be the authority to determine, by soil moisture testing, when truck movements should cease and when they can recommence.