

I am writing to oppose and object to the proposed Martins Creek Quarry operations in submission SD6612.

The overall decline in health and wellbeing of locals will be evident and I speak with experience from living amongst previous Daracon activities. This lived experience had a profound negative impact on my health, mental state, well-being, work performance and personal life.

My experience was due to my residence being on Horns Crossing Rd which suddenly became directly impacted by the operational activities of the quarry. Whilst transporting the product is an issue for many, the size and scale of extraction is dramatic for those in close proximity to the quarry. Travelling to my workplace amongst huge numbers of trucks was also a dangerous and stressful activity.

The following outlines the basis for my objection:

### **WELL-BEING**

The serenity of Vacy was shattered when Daracon started an expansion of the quarry and consequently an increase in output. The consequences of the excessive and intrusive noise, dust and vibration had an immense impact on my well-being. As a health worker on variable shifts the quality of my down time was impacted. Relaxation was not possible. Daracon turned my quiet idyllic retreat into a nightmare.

This constant noise, dust and vibration not only affected me as an individual but also my personal life. I could not stand the quarry and its operation. Whilst ending a relationship is a complex and multi-faceted issue the quarry exacerbated and negatively influenced our lives.

I believe those still living in the vicinity of the quarry will experience similar negative impacts on their personal well-being.

### **NOISE**

The daily operational noise commenced before 7.00am and was loud. Tearing, wrenching, crashing, grinding, jackhammering, blasting, rocks tumbling, pugmill noise for hours on end with heavy machinery moving within the quarry with their reversing sirens on and off.

The noise permeated the house and interrupted conversations and enjoyment of television programmes. Outdoor activity was impacted as well. Unable to fully enjoy gardening as there was no peace and quiet, eating outdoors was not enjoyable. Friends, visitors and family would often comment “gee that is loud”.

There was nowhere to get away or escape from NOISE.

## **VIBRATION**

Regular blasting was stressful and damaging to our residence. For some reason I never used to hear the warning siren before the blast, so the impact was awful. My house shook, glasses rattled in cupboards, vibrations travelled through the floor and I would momentarily get a fright.

We were constantly worried about the ongoing damage to the structural integrity of my house. Every blast would send us into a state of apprehension and concern. This was stressful. The constant concern and worry about the future was one of the deciding factors in selling the house.

## **DUST**

Due to the daily operation of the quarry causing excessive dust inside our home, I was continually cleaning up the dust as well as grit from the windowsills, windows and external paving. The same applied to our vehicles and anything else in the garden. Pot plants had to be washed.

My expertise is not in chemistry, but the dust would adhere to objects to a high degree. Cleaning was not a quick wash. Lots of water was required for all cleaning. Constant water changes were required.

## **TRANSPORT**

Everything proposed in the SSD is alarming and cannot proceed. The number of truck movements each day through our beautiful region and the historic village of Paterson will destroy the lives of many locals for generations to come.

The proposed operation is a very different operation to what originally existed and the massive increase in population and new subdivisions in the area has not been factored in. This volume of heavy vehicles on these country roads travelling through small villages is a recipe for disaster and should not be allowed.

Daracon, Umwelt and The Department of Planning responses to concerned residents shows the lack of understanding or deliberate disregard for lived experience.

Convoys of trucks arrived in the darkness of early morning, at times parked along Dungog Road, across the railway crossing bridge and on Horns Crossing Road with engines idling. Trucks arrived from any direction as drivers, doing their job, were just trying to get in and out. I understand this, however it was not controlled by Daracon. Daracon did not care, nor did they offer any solutions. This is how they operate contrary to their SSD6612 statements.

They propose self-regulation. This was shown in court cases, lived experiences and consultative meetings to be a complete farce.

The proposed development of a longer rail line into the quarry and loading of trains 24hrs/day, is a plan that demonstrates Daracon's complete lack of concern for people living near the quarry.

I have since moved to Lorn, near Maitland, and if this proposal is approved will still experience trucks driving along Belmore Road Lorn daily, impacting this community as well. Daracon have no control of their trucks, in particular their contractors, travelling directly on haulage routes.

I urge you to consider community voices and their lived experience over the years as it appears the DoP have let all of those impacted down.



Gostwyk bridge "double lane" 16/11/2022 !