New South Wales Government **22th November 2022**

Independent Planning Commission

Martins Creek Quarry (SSD-6612) – Public Written Submission in opposition to the proposal.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is James Moore. I am a member of the community groups VOWW, BHAS, and MCQAG.

I made a submission on 14th November 2022, and my stated position was:

As proposed the Development fails the test of acceptable social, economic and environmental impacts, and made the following statement re the proposal:

- It's the failure to listen to and respond with empathy to those residence both in Martins Creek and Paterson,

During the Public Hearing locals put forward their objections to the both the noise and the dust, from the quarry and one resident objected to the noise from the rail loading process. Refer to section Social and Economic impact in my previous submission

It is very reasonable to understand why the village of Martins Creek was established in near vicinity to the quarry at the time that the quarry for **Rail Ballast** began in the early 20th century. There simply was not the transport infrastructure and resources for the working man at that time.

The physical and metabolic impact on the residents today would be significantly different to earlier operation of the quarry, given both the size and power of operating equipment and the sheer volume of product being move in the late 20th and early 21st century.

I have previously advocated that **should the quarry be deemed absolutely necessary** then why can't all production be on rail, with a distribution centre at Hexham.

I hear the objections from Dracon: However, my working and life journey from my time as a young Marine Engineers through to retirement from the coal industry where I had a lead role in material handling, processing, and despatch tells me that where there is a will there is a way. This is not to say there won't be challenges on the journey

So, I put to you that for whatever reason the quarry is deem to take precedence over the communities to be impacted, then strict conditions must be imposed, and adhered to, with regular external Audits that takes input from the local, those who have the lived experience.

Section 2.4.2 Quarrying Process and Equipment covers the mining, processing and offsite transport of the finished product. The following addresses the critical elements that have potentially the biggest adverse impact upon the environs and people.

This section contains both an aerial photo of the existing site, **Figure 2.2** from which you can decipher the processing plant and it's operating modum, and a Schematic diagram of the processing plant **Fig 2.3**

Whilst both these images can convey a complex process and possibly a well deigned processing plant it is questionable that it represents contemporary design. Consequently, that is why complains are received from the local community regarding dust and noise.

Dust. A small word with a huge impact on many and diverse creatures and environs. In every aspect of the operation, dust is one of the most pervasive elements to be managed and its impact negated. Workplace H&SE regulations require on site personnel to be isolated from the dust yet so often the emission of dust from the site gets the shoulder shrug.

Noise. An element that can be most intrusive and harming to those who experience it and most harmful when it disturbs sleep. With diligent design both mobile and fixed plant noise impacts beyond the plant can be virtually mitigated. And note, sound suppression to heavy mobile plant is a well-established practice, as is the technique of "soft loading" of mine trucks.

Neither of the above two elements (dust and noise), must be allowed offsite where the potential to harm the community is real.

Sources are wide and divers and, in each case, most are controllable, whether it be from the stripping of the flora, the drilling and blasting process, the loading out and emplacement of the overburden, the loading out and dumping of material at the processing plant

- Dust and noise emissions from the run of mine dump hopper are able to be virtually eliminated through current best practice design, operation and maintenance.
- Dust and noise emissions to the outside environs from crushing and screening plants are virtually eliminated through full containment within expertly designed, constructed, and maintained processing plants.
- Dust emissions can be fully contained with product stock piles being "built" with a luffing stacker as against free falling product that then is subject to the then current environment such as elevated wind speeds.
- Dust and noise can be virtually eliminated from product loading using contemporary bin design and loading processes. Ten of millions of tonnes of coal are loaded and transport with negligible noise and dust from the load points and negligible dust emissions from the in-transit process.
- Haul Roads are a significant contributor to dust and whist the application of water to the surface was once the prime suppressant for dust, more that two

decades ago the use of surfactants, mixed with the water, provided a significant improvement in mitigating the generation of dust and its emission.

Looking Forward

Given that there is considerable resistance and lack of support for the proposal as it stands to be approved, if a process is not in place that fully eliminates, or at the minimum, significantly mitigates the communities concerns, then it should not get approval.

However, should it, against the communities will, be approved, then there is a lot that can be, and must be, done.

Whilst the proponent may resist, given that such measures to mitigate adverse outcomes may be a condition of consent, history shows that a contemporary, well design process and material handling plant, will deliver a net positive return to the investor, and the community.

The proposal seeks a thirty-year life, and as the existing quarry exist, another thirty years of the present is not acceptable.

Recommendation.

1) That the processing plant be re-assessed against the standard that, in the last decade, was designed and commissioned in the southern highlands,
2) That all product from site be transported by rail.
3) That a study be undertaken to evaluate the railing of primary crusher output to a processing plant at Hexham.
    a. Retain on site processing of Ballast.
    b. This will significantly reduce the harm to local residents brought about by noise and dust.
    c. Note the Processing Plant Schematic.
4) That an independent and experienced consultant team objectively evaluate the feasibility of a rail receival and despatch, and possibly a processing facility, at Hexham to service the Hunter localities.
5) Consider the engagement of **TUNRA Bulk Solids,** based at the University of Newcastle. *Tunra Bulk Solids offers solutions for all industries dealing with bulk materials and covers the entire spectrum of bulk materials handling and storage,* inclusive of feeder, conveyor transfer points, and optimises bin design to mitigate noise, wear, and flowability of varying product sizes.

In conclusion I put to you that a Significant State Development should not be one that can cause harm to the community.

I trust that this submission be added with that submitted on the 14th November 2022, and given due consideration across the issues within.

BORAL MARULAN QUARRY – SOTHERN HIGHLANDS