

Submission to IPC – Martins Creek Quarry (SSD- 6612)

I am writing in objection to the modified development application of Martins Creek Quarry.

Having listened to many of the objections of the public at the hearings at Tocal I am mortified that the Department of Planning and Environment seems to continually and completely ignore the views of the residents of the Paterson Valley and those to the south along the route the trucks will take.

The DPE should have recognised that the overwhelming opposition against the expansion of the quarry. Rather they seem to be reluctant to recognise the initial shortcomings of their assessment and “have dug the whole deeper” in failing to recognise public opposition.

In the intervening period, the DPE has failed to conduct the most basic independent assessment of information put forward in Daracon’s December 2022 submission.

The form of the modified development application is not easily understandable. Call me a cynic, but advising of the minimal proposed changes 2 days before Christmas with a response time required at the summer holidays, is an abuse of the professional process required. As I interpret the modification all it does is fiddle at the edges. The modifications, to the extent they are clear, are insignificant. The tonnages, whilst reducing, reduce at a different rate as the truck movements. Comparison is made with historical truck movements without mentioning that those movements were horrendous to the local residents and outside Daracon’s approvals.

Looking at public interest, the Daracon and DPE modified application, by way of omission:

- Fails to ameliorate the adverse social and economic impact of the public in the area impacted by expansion demonstrated so ably during the Tocal hearings
- Fails to demonstrate the expansion is necessary in the public interest in the wider region of the Hunter valley, The numerous quarries in this area are well able to supply needs. Creating a mega quarry at Martins Creek will not increase the total quarry materials supplied to this area: it will only reduce the materials supplied by other quarries in the area. Whilst acknowledging there have been supply chain issues during covid and the exceptionally wet weather in 2022, the medium to longer term availability of supply in the Hunter Valley region will be more than adequate to meet anticipated demand. For example, the Brandy Hill quarry has been able fulfil Daracon contracted obligations in recent times.
- Fails to show the expansion is required for the benefit of the public interest in the wider New South Wales

It should also be noted the characteristics of the Martins Creek quarry material are in no material way different from that of other quarries.

In short, the location of the Martins Creek quarry is unsuitable for a mega quarry and there is no need for one. The activities of the quarry should continue as per its present consent: it is clearly in the public interest that no expansion is permitted.

C R Wokes

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Paterson

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