

Mark & Robyn Burgmann  
Paterson Service Station,  
[REDACTED],  
Paterson.

We have owned the Service Station since 1989. We wish to state that modifications to the Martins Creek Quarry of 160 trucks a day (1) every 2-1/2 minutes is completely unacceptable.

Reasons-

- 1) Loss of rural and village amenities- Our town is a busy, beautiful historic village. People move here to build their homes and raise their children expecting a beautiful relaxing rural lifestyle.
- 2) Danger to pedestrians, residents, children and many visitors- Just crossing the road, even opening car doors you take your life in your hands. I believe Daracon has stated that they will be reducing truck movements to 44 between 7am-3pm and 18 truck movements between 3pm to 6pm. This is still unacceptable. If I am calculating this correctly, this amounts to 62 truck movements. What is the time frame for the remaining 98 trucks which would = 160 truck movements daily. I don't know if anyone connected with Daracon has children or grandchildren but if they do the time frames that they are modifying are still within school hours. We all know children can be unpredictable and trucks convoying through our town is a recipe for disaster.
- 3) Impact on business and tourism. Our business commenced in 1989. We leased the workshop and started a mechanical repairs business. 18 months later we had a chance to purchase the Service Station which we then leased the front shop and continued to run a mechanical workshop. Mark ran the business on his own. Over the following years business grew and we had 2 more mechanics and put two local boys through mechanical apprenticeships. 2015 our tenants abandoned their lease as they were finding it hard to survive due to decrease in customers hence we decided to run the business together ourselves. Due to business slowing and Marks ill health we were forced to reduce to one mechanic.

We employed 1 staff member to run the front shop. I was nursing at the time and on days off I would run the shop. Doing shift work I missed a lot of the traffic through town at the time but I remember looking at the road and thinking “what is going on with all these trucks convoing through town?” The noise, dust etc you could not have a conversation outside, it was a trucking nightmare. Business was slowing and you could not even enter the servo, so people were going elsewhere.

2017 with the reduction of trucks and the normal growth of town our business slowly started to grow. From 2019 we decided to add a café, deck, gift room and a small nursery. Business grew.

- 4) 2023 we now employ 9 staff and 3 juniors. We sell local plants, giftware, animal produce, home-style meals (cooked on site) and around 100 coffees a day. Mark is only doing rego checks now and only on Fridays, however he is booked from 7- 5 every Friday. Most days the customer count is over 200 but that just indicates paying customers and some are paying for groups. Our café is full most of the time with us having to turn people away suggesting that they have a wonder around town and enjoy the historic buildings and our beautiful park and we will save them the next available table.

We have a large number of tourists visiting Monday to Friday and also many regular locals, Mothers groups, cyclist and motor cyclist groups all visiting on a regular basis throughout the week. Paterson is a popular destination. Saturday is not a busy tourist day but is popular with locals, kids attending sporting activities etc. One of our local customers was visiting the café the other day with relatives from the UK and commented “You know you guys are the hub of the town, we don’t know what we would do without you”. What a great compliment. We also see a large increase in customers during the school holidays as people are looking for places to visit with kids and they love Paterson as we do.

- 5) Louise Neville from Umwelt spoke to us once some years ago asking what do we think the impact would be, if any on our business if the trucks were to return. I stated then and now that this will destroy all business, tourism trade and create dangerous situations to all living and visiting our area. Our opinion has not changed, it was stressful back then and

more so now. Customers often ask about how the decision making is going and their anxiety levels are high.

- 6) Adaptive management plan and local provision framework sounds good but what could they do and how do we believe we would be really listened to and action taken when one of the early comments from Daracon at one of our meetings was “If you don’t like it, then move”.
  
- 7) Well I don’t want to move, my home and business is here. This is a great community, my children have built homes in the local area my grandchildren attend school here and in Maitland, my elderly parents live here as well. This is our life. Just the other day I watched a truck and dog turning from Duke Street into King Street, traffic had to stop because the truck took up both lanes even with some modification there still will not be enough room for 2 vehicles to pass. We were on the front line last time and I saw on many occasions 2 trucks coming and meeting together on that corner with no way to pass and who wants to pass a truck taking up  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the road? Traffic then banks up to the railway crossing and with increasing subdivisions happening locally, especially from 2019 onwards there already is a huge increase in traffic on the haulage route, add 160 trucks and dogs every 2-1/2 minutes, disaster!

Just in closing a few years ago we were approached by a film crew to shoot a portion of a Toyota add, to which we agreed. We closed for the day, staff and customers were involved, what an exciting day. We have again been approached by Robert Roworth who is a director, actor and producer based in New York but grew up in Maitland to shoot a scene for one of his movies. So this Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Paterson and our humble servo will be on the map again. Both of the above told us we were selected because of our unique service station and our town. Imagine how 160 trucks convoying through our town would have swayed their decision.

Thank you

Mark and Robyn Burgman