

Martins Creek Quarry

Final draft

I feel these submission don't bear much weight. To some point a waste of time.

It is no secret that Newcastle and the lower hunter are being transformed into a UN Smart city. As the UN have Agenda 21/2030 they are pushing upon many countries around the world. Implementing this agenda, regardless of the peoples opinion. It is no secret that people are to be herded into these cities and removed from rural areas.

So my question here is, 'Why did state planning approve the numerous lifestyle estates being built in the Paterson Valley?'

#### PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

My personal experience, when there was a large number of trucks on the road last time.

I encounter TWO near death experiences. One was at the 90 degree bend in Paterson. The truck came into the corner too fast and had to come onto the opposite side of the road. I was waiting in the servo driveway, near the cafe. Just as i started to pull out the truck came round the corner. if I had been another six feet further he would have rolled straight over me, in my car. I ended up in a state of shock and was quite ill. The second incident was at the junction on Dungog road and Gresford road. Where the truck failed to stop and cut the corner. Once again it was only the grace of god that saved me. Only the other day i had i get onto the shoulder of the road, because a semi was dodging potholes....really.

I have driven since I could get my license. It took me along time after the Paterson incident to drive and feel safe on the road again.

I feel the 40/hr of trucks set to impact our area will leave me a nervous wreck and will impact my ability to go about my normal life.

#### CONSIDERATION

These trucks have time deadlines and this makes them very dangerous. I have seen them taking risk and pushing the motorist along. At times one is caught up in a line of 4-6 trucks. because they always travel in multiple numbers.

My 84yr mother drives on the road, it appears no allowance has been made for school times, buses picking up children at various stops along the road. No allowance for safe hours for the seniors to go about their business. Daily commuters traveling to their place of employment,etc.

By all accounts it appears no consideration has been given to the people of the area as they go about the daily life.

#### ROAD DETERIORATION

The deterioration of roads in the Dungog Shire is a constant issue. Last time these trucks dominated the roads, they became a patchwork mess. People and trucks dodging holes, it is so dangerous for

every person. The narrow entry point into the Paterson Valley creates a bottleneck. There seems to be no alternative route to build infrastructure for the purpose of these truck movements, intended to release the burden on Paterson and create a safer environment for the general public using the public roads.

Adding to the issue of road degeneration, the cost burden on the local people in repairs to their vehicles and tyres . '

'Will there be any compensation offered?'

The issue of Goswick bridge! The timber bridges of this area are unique, and hold historical significance. The bridges offer attraction to the many, many tourists that visit the valley each year. My concern is that with increased heavy traffic, the repairs of the bridge will outweigh the cost of a new bridge. State planning, will than demolish it and replace with concrete.

#### TRANSPORT OPTIONS

The question of transport options, brings me to my point regarding the train movement.

So increased train activity, means increased time the rail gates are closed. This increase of time is added to people's daily commuting time. Which could amount to a significant amount of extra time people spend away from home and family.

'Will these increases be monitored?'

The question of emergency vehicles is also an issue of major concern. The bottleneck into the valley once again, causes restrictions. We have seen major fires in past years. The quick flowing rivers and substantial catchment area can rapidly fill and flood the valley water courses, creating potentially dangerous situations. My question

'Will the truck and train movement be ceased in times of natural disaster and other possible disasters? '

#### IMPACT ON VILLAGE LIFE

The impact of the truck movement is going to destroy the historic village of Paterson. The limiting potential for development of the tourist industry in the area will be serverly impacted. limiting the growth of local small business.

'Will compensation be available for business that have been impacted?'

Already the increased traffic has disrupted the tranquil feel of the quaint historical rural village. It becomes difficult to have community events as the impact of noise, dust and heavy vehicle movement tend to dominate the proceedings.

Increased heavy vehicle traffic will severely impact the real estate value in the whole valley. The road all the way through to Maitland will be impacted by the movement of these heavy vehicles, which will affect the real estate value. there also.

The current excess traffic is continually increasing, with people moving into the new estates, the tradesmen, the delivery trucks, the concrete truck, etc,etc.

## NOISE

I live in the Vacy village, the noise from the quarry is heard as a low drone and reverberates at times through my chest. Its very annoying to my hearing and at times i put ear plugs in to try and block it out.

I lived at Gresford for 27yrs and moved to Vacy 7yrs ago. The amount of traffic that moves through Vacy has increased enormously in those years. At times my windows rattle from trucks moving to fast. My nerves are on edge, because it sounds like they coming through the house

Five years ago I asked council to do a baseline noise monitor study, lol , to which their was no response.

I have made enquirers to the monitoring of noise pollution caused from the truck movements and the quarry activity, but am unable to find any information. My question

'Has a baseline noise monitoring study been conducted, before operations begin?'

As you are aware noise is a pollution and the issue needs to be addressed. I rang and asked council last time to conduct baseline noise levels for the villages of Paterson, Vacy and Martins Creek. To which no response. Of course there needs to be a 24hr baseline monitoring, before the operations can begin. A benchmark needs to be established for future comparison purposes.

## AIR QUALITY

Air quality can be a major form of pollution, causing serious health issues.

'Is there an air quality monitoring program in place and what assurance is in place to continue monitoring for the life of the quarry operations?'

## WILDLIFE

The Paterson Valley has significant wildlife and habitat to animals that have dwindling populations.

Many people of this valley care and respect for our wildlife. There is a silent group of people that make the effort to limit the numbers of wildlife death on the roads. I myself am one of this group. I will not hesitate to stop and save or remove wildlife off the road. I am always aware of safety to others and myself when doing this. I stop my car in a safe position, turn on the hazard lights and proceed to carry out my business quickly and safety. Turtles are of great concern as they move waterholes in times before rain events. My question

'What considerations have been included in the plan for the protection of wildlife?'

## VISUAL IMPACT

Taken from the councils web site. No mention of industry or mining activity. The vision is for a rural, community/family lifestyle. One of protecting and enhancing our natural environment. Paterson Valley being a gateway to the magnificent World Heritage site of the Barrington Tops NP.

## Council's Vision

Council's vision for the Shire is, "A vibrant, united community, with a sustainable economy. An area where rural character, community safety and lifestyle are preserved."

## Council's Mission Statement

"To manage, enhance and protect the resources of the Shire in consultation with the Community.

The north end of Gresford Rd leads to Upper Ally camp area in the State Forest. Via the park roads the NP can be reached. Several camping and tourist parks have opened in the valley, including; holiday resorts and a variety of other holiday accommodation. Small business making their living creating rural holiday experiences, accommodating a vast amount of visitors holidaying in the area. The economy of these little villages depends on the financial impute. I feel the increase of truck movement will deter visitors to the area. It will certainly degrade the reason these visitor choose to come to our beautiful valley.

The visual impact of the existing quarry has created the only blot of human activity on the face of the valley walls. It already is an eye sore that can not be missed as you drive from Paterson towards Dungog turn off. This impact will only increase, forever destroying the significant natural value and natural beauty of the Paterson Valley.

And so it seems the people of the Paterson Valley and beyond are going to be tortured 5 days a week by the truck and rail traffic. 24hrs a day seven days a week by the noise from the quarry. An increase of noise, dust and pollution with a life expectancy of 25yrs sound unbearable.

There will be health implications for some from the expansion of this quarry. I, myself am already starting to feel fearful of this project being approved.

'Will Daracon and Umwelt provide health insurance, if illness occurs? Will Daracon and Umwelt provide a trust for health problems that may take years to present?.'

As this valley was deemed rural lifestyle, I think this should hold precedent over the expansion of the quarry.

My suggestion is "go find somewhere that is not already populated". The trust of government and big business is non existent for me, time and time again they say one thing than do another. Often against the wishes of the people.

I feel these submission don't bear much weight. To some point a waste of time. It is no secret that Newcastle and the lower hunter are being transformed into a UN Smart city. As the UN have Agenda 21/2030 they are pushing upon many countries around the world, implementing this agenda regardless of the peoples opinion. It is no secret, people are to be herded into these cities and removed from rural areas. So my question here is "why did state planning approve the numerous lifestyle estates being built in the Paterson Valley".

My personal experience, when there was a large number of trucks on the road last time. Was TWO near death experiences. One was at the 90 degree bend in Paterson. The truck came into the corner to fast and had to come onto the opposite side of the road. I was waiting in the servo driveway, near the cafe. Just as i started to pull out, was when the truck came round the corner. if i had been another six feet further he would have rolled straight over me, in my car. I ended up in a state of shock and was quite ill. The second incident was at the junction on Dungog road and Gresford road. Where the truck failed to stop and cut the corner. Once again it was only the grace of god that saved me. Only the other day i had i get onto the shoulder of the road, because a semi was dodging potholes....really.

I have driven since I could get my license. it took me along time after the Paterson incident to drive and feel safe on the road. I feel the 40/hr of trucks set to impact our area will leave my a nervous wreck and will impact my ability to go about my normal life.

These trucks have time deadlines and this makes them very dangerous. I have seen them taking risk and pushing the motorist along. At times one is caught up in a line of 4-6 trucks. because they always travel in multiple numbers.

My 84yr mother drives on the road, it appears no allowance has been made for school times ie: buses picking up children at various stops along the road. No allowance for safe hours for the seniors to go about their business. By all accounts it appears no consideration has been given to the people of the area as they go about the daily life.

The deterioration of the roads is a constant issue in the Dungog Shire. Last time these trucks dominated the roads, they became a patchwork mess. People and trucks dodging holes, it is so dangerous for every person.

I live in the Vacy village, the noise from the quarry is heard as a low drone and reverberates at times through my chest. Its very annoying to my hearing and at time i put ear plugs in to try and block it.

I have made enquirers to the monitoring of noise pollution caused from the truck movements and the quarry activity, but am unable to find any information. My question ' Has base line noise monitoring been conducted". As you are aware noise is a pollution and the issue needs to be addressed. I rang and asked council last time to conduct baseline noise levels for the villages of Paterson, Vacy and Martins Creek. To which no response. Of course there needs to be a 24hr baseline monitoring, before the operations can begin. As a benchmark needs to be established.

The impact of the truck movement is going to destroy the historic village of Paterson. The current excess traffic is continually increasing, with people moving into the new estates, the tradesmen, the delivery trucks, concrete truck, etc.

I lived at Gresford for 27yrs and moved to Vacy 7yrs ago. The amount of traffic noise that moves through Vacy has increased enormously in those years. At times my windows rattle from trucks moving to fast. My nerves are on edge, because it sounds like they coming through the house. Five years ago I asked council to do a baseline noise monitor, lol , to which their was no response.

Which brings me to my next question "Is air quality being monitored?". so that would need a continuous monitoring program to be adopted.

And so it seems the people of the Paterson Valley and beyond are going to be tortured 5 days a week by the truck traffic and 24hrs a day seven days a week by the noise from the quarry.