

Martins Creek Quarry Project SSD-6612
Submission on Additional Material
January 2023

Having read the additional information provided by Umwelt on behalf of Daracon and from the Department of Planning and Environment it appears that the main issue continues to be the transportation of material by road and the impact of heavy road haulage on the community of Paterson and those living along the haulage route. Daracon has proposed a new limit for road transportation of 450,000 tpa however the haulage route remains unchanged - through the village of Paterson which is unsuitable for the proposed volume of heavy truck haulage.

Stated in Section 2 of Umwelt's Additional Material Document '*The potential impact of proposed road haulage on amenity and community character, particularly in Paterson Village, has been a key issue of concern raised in previous community consultation and the recent Public Meeting.*' The community of Paterson know exactly what the **actual impacts** are on amenity and community character because they have experienced it as shown in *Figure 3.1 Historical Road Tonnages – 1993 to 2019*. Umwelt constantly refers to haulage volumes by RailCorp prior to 2012 but as we know from the ruling made in the Land and Environment Court these volumes also exceeded the legal consent so the comparison is irrelevant. Umwelt claims that the existing 1991 consent for the operation of Martins Creek Quarry '*has created many challenges for all stakeholders*'. This statement is completely untrue for the community members living in the vicinity of the quarry and along the haulage routes. The community accepts the existence of Martins Creek Quarry as a rail ballast quarry with consent to transport 300,000 tpa of which 70% was to be transported by rail which is why the quarry is located where it is. If aggregate is needed for construction purposes it can be sourced from the other approved hard rock quarries in the Hunter region which have more direct access to the State Road network.

The community surrounding Martins Creek Quarry and along the road haulage route has changed and grown over time indicating that it is a desirable and thriving place to live. With regard to intergenerational equity, the only way to ensure that this community continues to develop and progress would be to deny the application for expansion of operations at Martins Creek Quarry because there are no benefits to the local community.

Daracon has been submitting development applications for the expansion of operations at Martins Creek Quarry since 2014. Community members and groups have spent untold hours researching and writing submissions objecting to these applications in order to protect their local amenity, local businesses and family life. As well as time and effort, private funds have been raised to finance reports by experts and provide communications. Even though the application made by Daracon has been changed and amended numerous times, the position of the community remains steadfast in its objection to the expansion of operations at Martins Creek Quarry.

The village of Paterson and the surrounding community will remain far beyond the next 25 years. This is a community that has remained resolute in its objection to the expansion of Martins Creek Quarry. This is a community that supported and worked with Dungog Shire Council to bring a case against the illegal operation of the quarry in the Land and Environment Court (successfully). This is a community that must be treated with respect and consideration for the families, the farmers, the business owners, the workers, the volunteers and all who call it their home. The expansion of operations at Martins Creek Quarry will only have negative impacts on those living here which is why there has been such an outcry of objection from those affected.