

To: Office of Independent Planning Commission NSW

Re: Re-opening of Martins Creek Quarry Project

The new proposal makes no difference whatsoever. It is full of mistakes, inconsistencies and misquotations. In addition, some aspects of it defy common sense and should raise significant concerns about the form of decision making which affects so many people.

It is not my intention to be disrespectful or to antagonise members of the Commission in any way. Obviously, this would be counterproductive. But I have to say that the entire process involving the Martins Creek quarry and Daracon has raised very serious concerns about the NSW democracy and the rights of ordinary people when facing companies with millions of dollars to spend on promotion and processes.

It is impossible to avoid the establishment of relationship between people on commissions or committees, and people in organisations pushing to have decisions made in their favour for the purpose of making millions of dollars. I should say that notwithstanding the statements about conflict of interest, in my view there was clear connections.

There is much about the Martins Creek Quarry issue that makes no sense that it does beg the question 'is everything the Planning Commission does so inaccurate and misunderstanding of community needs?' or is it something different about this specific issue (maybe Daracon itself).

In the final analysis it is about Daracon's profits. So much about what representatives of this company have said in the past have proven not to be accurate. The entire transportation process could be by rail. This would save the NSW taxpayers millions of dollars.

But no. The game goes on because the company want to make a huge profit at the expense of ordinary citizens.

Continuing to refer to Patterson as a local road defies common sense. One has to assume the members of the Commission are prepared to look stupid on national television when a program goes to air showing the tiny village with a right-angle bend in its narrow main street being referred to as a "highway". (Or is this intended as some kind of joke?)

Of course, of even more concern is the lack of attention given to the possibility of a catastrophic event in the Paterson village if there was a combination of trucks blocking the level crossing and railway signal failure. Check with railway experts and they will tell you it is not impossible.

The roads in this area are already badly damaged. Like many others in NSW the road construction does not appear to be coping with problems caused by climate change. Putting trucks on roads through towns like Patterson, Bolwarra Heights, Bolwarra, East Maitland is going to cause constant and dangerous damage. Not to mention debilitating blockages on a daily basis through East Maitland.

So many of the statements made by Daracon appear to be building a platform for increasing the road transportation in the future to suit their own profit needs. Many of the statements

made by Daracon have been refuted by courts of law and it is fair for the community to treat statements from this company with suspicion.

From the very beginning it should have been clear that the entire process will cause massive inconvenience, loss of life and financial loss to thousands of people in our community. An obvious question is why a company like Daracon, with a very devious record of reliability and respect for law, is able to even get this far with such an outrageously damaging proposal. In response to this, it has been suggested that specific financial arrangements made by the company to local government could have been influential.

Many of the statements made about controlling drivers are nothing less than ridiculous. Independent contractors will do as they please.

Please put the thousands of community members ahead of company profits. Think of school buses full of children on roads dominated by trucks in a hurry. Think of families in cars driving on roads not designed for this purpose. Think of dozens of people who are paying off mortgages in an area you are going to change into a danger zone. Think of Paterson - the beautiful village of Paterson. Think of our children and adolescents on their way home from school, or going to the park with their skateboards or bikes.

Now think, they could be your children or grandchildren. Would you still be happy to say "Yes" to Daracon?

If we have to have a quarry at Martins Creek – send it by rail. Say 'NO' to Daracon.

You have the power, indeed the responsibility to protect us.

Robert Parsons

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28<sup>th</sup> January 2023