

Our ref: Martins Creek Quarry Project (SSD-6612)

Received by IPC  
Thursday 6 October 2022

Professor Mary O'Kane AC  
Chair  
Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW  
Suite 15.02, Level 15  
135 King Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

5 October, 2022

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**Subject:** Referral for Determination

Dear Professor O'Kane

The Department has completed its assessment of Martins Creek Quarry Project (SSD-6612). The Independent Planning Commission is the declared consent authority for this development as more than 50 unique objections were received during the exhibition of the Project.

The amended Project involves expansion of the existing Martins Creek Quarry to extract, process and transport up to 1.1 million tonnes per annum of hard rock material over a 25-year period.

The amended Project was exhibited from 2 June 2021 until 31 July 2021 (60 days). The Department received 670 public submissions. 31 (4.6%) of these submissions supported, 634 (94.6%) objected, and five (0.7%) commented on the project.

The Department also carried out site visits at Martins Creek Quarry and met with the Martins Creek Quarry Community Action Group in Paterson on 2 November 2016, 22 June 2021 and 22 June 2022.

The Department has completed a detailed assessment of the merits of the Project, having regard to advice from NSW government agencies and independent experts, and all submissions from members of the public and special interest groups.

The Department acknowledges that there is a high degree of public interest in the Project and the range of community concerns is also broad, including but not limited to impacts on the safety and efficiency of the local road network, noise, air quality, socio-economic, water resource and biodiversity impacts. Notwithstanding these community concerns, the Department considers that the applicant has responded to feedback from the Department, other government agencies and the community and made substantial changes to reduce impacts, while maintaining the economic viability of the Project.

The Department also considers that the Project would result in significant economic benefits to the region and to the State of NSW through the supply of materials critical to the construction industry and is therefore justified from an economic efficiency perspective.

The Department has carefully weighed the environmental impacts of the Project against the significance of the Project's identified hard rock resource and the wider socio-economic benefits associated with extending the operation of the quarry for a further 25 years under a contemporary development consent.

On balance, the Department considers that the benefits of the Project outweigh its residual costs and that the Project is in the public interest and is approvable, subject to the recommended conditions of consent.

I have attached a copy of the department's assessment report, recommended instrument of consent and other relevant documents for the Commission's consideration.

Further information about the project can be found on the NSW planning portal:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/martins-creek-quarry-project>.

Please contact me on (02) 8275 1374 if you would like to arrange a briefing or require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessie Evans".

Jessie Evans

Director, Resource Assessments  
Energy, Resources and Industry