

**From:** [Linda Gill](#)  
**To:** [IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Deep Creek Quarry  
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Linda Gill

  
NSW 2423,  
Australia

### Submission to Deep Creek Quarry

To Whom It May Concern

I have lived in Wootton, in the southern section of the MidCoast Council area for nearly 40 years. I have a horticultural background and before retirement, I was a Councillor on Great Lakes Council for 26 years, right up until the forced amalgamation with Gloucester and Taree Councils.

I know this region and its people well, and I do not believe the scale, number and locations of hard rock quarries proposed for this region are in the long term interests of our economy, the protection of our water catchments and, biodiverse environments. All the reasons people move here, bring their children up here and choose to set up businesses.

The lands of the Deep Creek Quarry are rich in biodiversity, including the Koalas and NewHolland Mouse and both likely and potential habitat for a number of other species. It is important for the long term functioning of our ecosystems that the connecting corridors within the Karuah Catchment, especially lands with tree hollows that take hundreds of years to form, are protected. A quarry operation is a totally unacceptable industry to build in this rural/environmental area.

Road infrastructure has been a long standing concern in the three Council areas and with Council amalgamation, our road system has deteriorated considerably. It is outrageous to think that quarry developments are being approved without the road infrastructure in place to facilitate the development. The Bucketts Way intersection at Twelve Mile Creek is notoriously dangerous and not is a state able to function safely with added quarry haulage trucks.

**Up to 50 haulage trucks an hour are expected to exit the Bucketts Way to travel south on the Pacific Highway. Planning for over 1,000 haulage trucks to daily travel north from Italia Road, make a u-turn at Karuah to travel south on the Highway is in process. This is a recipe for disaster at the Intersection, yet the Traffic Impact Assessment concludes impacts are "acceptable".**

**This is completely "unacceptable".**

It feels like the State Government is willing to facilitate quarry developments in our area because of the demand created for quarry materials from outside the area.

It takes a long time for a quarry to get through the development process - so I must ask, why hasn't any due and proper planning for quarry developments taken place in the public domain?

No planning or community preparation has taken place - proposed quarries are randomly popping up, including a proposal to transfer Wallaroo State Forest to accommodate the industry: all on the basis of the Department Planning's opinion that because numerous proponents are keen to set up their operations, there must be a demand. This is not sound planning.

Quarry development planning has to be integrated into Council planning - it's the only way the community will accept and be prepared for the potential long term impacts the industry will place on their rural lifestyles. I see from the Commissioner's interview with MidCoast Council, that new information will be presented to Commissioners. What a shocking state of affairs when our adjudicators are calling for information outside of the Department of Planning and the Proponent at this late stage. Certainly questions are raised as to the independence of the Department of Planning's recommendation.

The Commissioners are deliberating on this quarry proposal because over 50 original submissions of objection were lodged. I think if the community consultation process had been conducted with the view to secure a wide community view to the proposal, many more submissions of objection would have been lodged.

Deep Creek Quarry should be refused. The quarry is not in the long term interests of our regional economy and environment. It does not reflect and cannot integrate the aspirations of the Great Lakes LEP, where scenic, social amenity, and safe water catchments are noted as key drivers for our sustainable and tourist industries.

Your Sincerely