

MARTINS CREEK QUARRY WATCH

An information sheet by Martins Creek Quarry Action Group for impacted residents



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Important Update

Unfathomably the NSW Department of Planning has completed their assessment of the project and has **recommended** that the project be granted and approval by the Independent Planning Commission. Welcome to the second newsletter from Martins Creek Quarry Action Group (MCQAG). This newsletter keeps impacted residents and communities abreast with the proposed developments of the Martins Creek Railway Ballast Quarry extension.

As some of you may be aware Daracon and Umwelt have submitted a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) which is seeking **State Government approval** to transform Martins Creek Railway Ballast Quarry into a **large scale “mega” aggregate quarry** to supply construction materials into the Hunter and Sydney markets by road and rail.

In this issue we highlight the **impacts** and **issues ignored** by Daracon and the Department of Planning. We detail the IPC process and how **YOU CAN INFLUENCE** the decision making and take part in the process!!!

Issues and Impacts Ignored

The NSW Department of Planning have completed their assessment of Daracon and Umwelt's amended development application (SSDA) that seeks approval for;

- **Change of use at the site from a Ballast Quarry to a General Construction aggregate Quarry**
- **INCREASE to 1.1 MILLION TONNES EXTRACTED PER YEAR**
- **0.5 million tonne per annum transported by road**
- **0.6 million tonne per annum transported by rail**
- **INCREASE TO 40 TRUCKS PER HOUR**
- **INCREASE TO 280 TRUCKS PER DAY (50 days per year) and then 200 PER DAY thereafter**
- **Monday to Friday sales with truck movements between 7am and 6pm**
- **24 hour rail loading**
- **A new entrance directly onto Dungog Road**
- **EXTEND OPERATIONS FOR 25 MORE YEARS**

the Department of Planning assessment is **grossly erroneous** and has failed to properly consider the **issues and impacts** of the proposal.

The quarry has operated sustainably within the local community and lawfully only as a small rail ballast quarry for 100 years. NOW Daracon WANT to change the operation to a **mega scale general construction aggregate quarry**. A scale at which we say is simply **incompatible** with the surrounding residences, land uses including public impact and disruption.

The Department in their assessment report has not given any weighting to the **lived experiences and impacts** of residents and the wider community it will impact – detailed in more than **600 objections**.

The Department has completely **ignored** the **devastating effects** of the proposal in respect of; rural amenity impacts, village amenity impacts, village activity centre function impacts, health impacts and impacts to Paterson Village heritage significance, public road damage, school zone and bus stop interactions, traffic congestion and public safety consequence.

Most concerningly, the Department has **ignored** a number of **road safety issues** raised by Martins Creek Quarry Action Group, Dungog Shire Council, Maitland City Council and the wider community, in particular regarding the use of Station Street (Martins creek), the use of Gostwyck **single lane bridge** and the traffic and safety impacts that will (and have occurred) in the activity centre of Paterson and the balance of the haulage route through Tocal, Mindaribba, Bolwarra, Flat Road, Pitnacree and Melbourne Street to Maitland.

Independent Planning Commission Process

The independent Planning Commission is the delegated decision maker who will determine whether to approve or refuse the Martins Creek Quarry expansion project. The decision will be made by three commissioners in the coming weeks.

Importantly there is still opportunity for public participation in the process and for you to still **HAVE YOUR SAY**.

The IPC is now calling for public submissions, the **public submission portal** will be open from 11th October to 15th November 2022.

The IPC has organized a **public meeting** at 10am 7th November at Tocal College.

How to Register to Speak

If you wish to apply to speak at the public meeting, you must complete the online registration form by no later than 12pm AEST on Wednesday 2 November 2022. Registered speakers will be provided information on how to join the meeting and technical assistance is available to help one prepare for the meeting. You will be able to speak in person to the commissioners directly at Tocal College hall or alternately you can speak via a video conference link remotely.

How to watch the Meeting

You can watch the public meeting in person at Tocal College hall. Alternately the public meeting will be live streamed on the Commission's website:

www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/livestream

In the interest of openness and transparency the IPC will also publish a transcript of the public meeting on the Commission's website.

Written Submissions

If you want to have your say on this project but cannot take part in the public meeting, you can submit your comments in writing to the Commission up to one week (seven days) after the public meeting via email, post or the online portal.

You can provide a SUBMISSION OBJECTING to the quarry expansion through the IPC website: <https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2022/09/martins-creek-quarry>

Click on **Have Your Say** and complete the form.

Submissions should contain the following:

- Clearly described the individual or cumulative impacts of the proposed development
- Quantify the impacts or provides other relevant info or evidence like **lived experiences**
- Provide new or unique information or views on the issues including **lived experiences**
- Detail whether the Department of Plannings Assessment Report and recommended conditions of consent adequately address the issues that the community have previously identified

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.MCQAG.ORG



What can you do?

1. Don't believe the Daracon and Umwelt spin. If you are a resident that was impacted from Daracon's previously unlawful operations, or if you are new to the area and you live in the locations detailed in page 2 of this newsletter **you will be impacted.**
2. We strongly urge you to lodge a written objection to the Independent Planning Commission **NOW** following the instructions on page 3 of this newsletter.
3. We also strongly urge you to address the Commission in person at the public meeting
4. Contact your state elected member and communicate to them your issues and concerns
5. Tell your neighbours, friends and family to also lodge objecting submissions
6. Stick together do not let Daracon and Umwelt divide, conquer and **DESTROY** our beautiful communities

KEY DATES

- **12PM 2ND NOVEMBER - REGISTRATIONS CLOSE FOR PUBLIC MEETING**
- **10AM 7TH NOVEMBER - IPC PUBLIC MEETING, TOCAL COLLEGE**
- **5PM 15TH NOVEMBER - ONLINE SUBMISSIONS CLOSE**