



Martins Creek Quarry Update

INFORMATION SHEET 4

This newsletter is provided to update the local community about the current operations at Martins Creek Quarry and the Martins Creek Quarry Extension Project.

August 2022

Market Update

The Hunter continues to be an attractive place to live, work and play. Demand for Construction Materials remains at levels that require good planning and management to ensure material for new subdivisions, roads, bridges, airports and hospitals is available in a timely manner to ensure efficient construction and maintenance of new and existing infrastructure.

The outlook for demand is expected to increase significantly in the Hunter over the next 5-10 years with important infrastructure projects such as the M1 extension at Raymond Terrace, Newcastle Inner City Bypass, John Hunter Hospital Expansion, Singleton Bypass, Muswellbrook Bypass, Williamstown RAAF Base Runway Widening and significant growth in regional subdivisions.

Recent wet weather will add to the strain in availability of materials as many projects have been delayed and Hunter councils seek to rebuild key roads and infrastructure.

Operations at the Quarry remain in a limited form and we are ready to provide material as and when conditions permit.

John Cannon
Divisional Manager, Construction Materials



Operational Update

The Quarry continues to operate and during the period July 2021 to June 2022 there were 14 trains and 166 truck movements transporting 21,947 tonnes of material from the Quarry to various rail and road projects in the region.

During this timeframe there was a single blast undertaken at the Quarry, on 10 December 2022. Daracon continues to monitor blasting, air quality and water quality with these monitoring results available on Daracon's website at:

<https://daracon.com.au/environment/monitoring-data>

During this period the Quarry has received two complaints, three enquiries and one instance of positive feedback. All complaints and enquiries were investigated and responses provided. Our community liaison representative, Louise Neville, continues to remain available to respond to all community enquiries. Louise's contact details are provided at the end of this newsletter.

Daracon continues to support the local and regional community through sponsorship and donations. Daracon has provided over \$20,000 to local and regional organisations and charities during this period. These include local sporting organisations and Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. Daracon also took on it's annual pilgrimage with a team in the Variety NSW Bash, raising over \$100,000 in the process.

Martins Creek Quarry Extension Project Update

The Amended Development Application (ADA) and Response to Submissions (RTS) Report (ADA Report) for the Revised Martins Creek Quarry Extension Project was placed on public exhibition from 2 June 2021 to 31 July 2021.

In November 2021, the Project team responded to the issues raised in the agency and community in a Submissions Report provided to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). Once DPE has completed its assessment, the Revised Project will then be referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for review. The IPC process is expected to include a further opportunity for issues to be raised by members of the public who have previously made submissions during the process to date. The IPC will then be responsible for the final determination as to whether the Revised Project is approved.

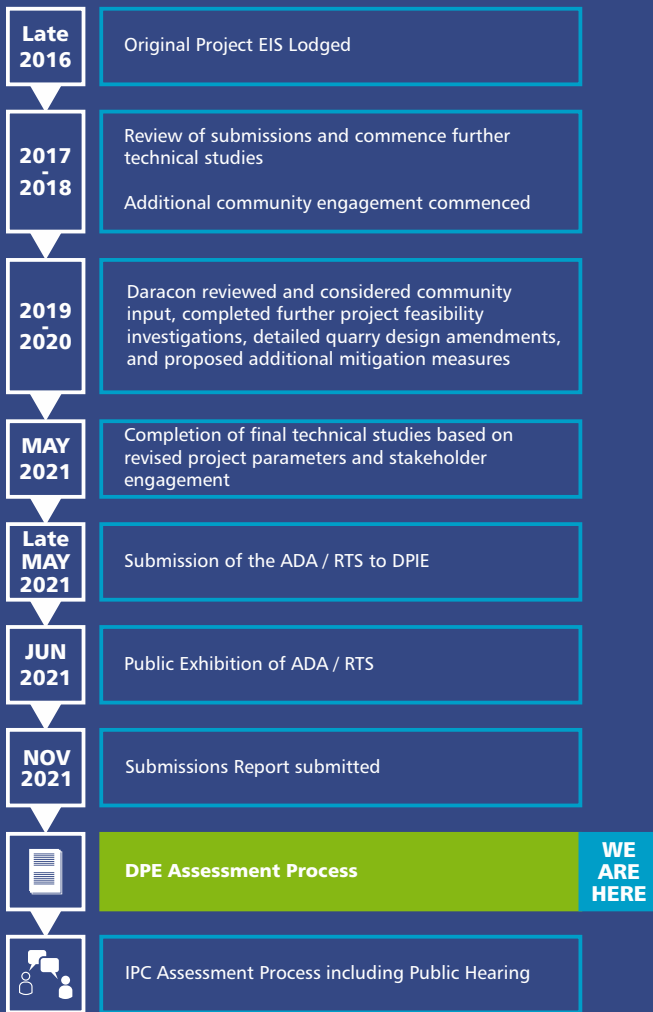
Project Changes in response to feedback

Following consideration of the submissions received on the Revised Project, additional assessment has been completed and further mitigation measures proposed to address issues raised in submissions. Key additional changes introduced as a result of stakeholder feedback include:

- a commitment to constructing the new Quarry access and railway bridge within 2 years of project approval rather than 4 years. This will accelerate the process of effectively bypassing Martins Creek Village, subject to obtaining relevant secondary approvals from the Australian Rail Track Corporation and Dungog Shire Council within 12 months of project approval
- construction of a barrier along the northern end of Station Street, to further reduce the potential noise impacts associated with rail loading activities from the Revised Project.

The Revised Project proposes a suite of management and mitigation measures in order to ameliorate potential impacts. Daracon have also reviewed and updated proposed management and mitigation measures in response to agency and community submissions, including:

- investigation of potential options for two (2) stopping bays on the haul route in consultation with Dungog Shire Council, Maitland City Council and the Community Consultative Committee
- contribution to the establishment of a pedestrian crossing in Paterson or other works to upgrade pedestrian amenity, should Dungog Shire Council approve it as a part of the Voluntary Planning Agreement considerations
- commitment to undertaking real-time air quality monitoring, including reactive and proactive air quality mitigation
- provision of access for the local community to the Daracon Employee Assistance Program (EAP) service, or independent EAP service, as part of the Community Benefits and Wellbeing Fund.



Submission Summary

During public exhibition, 686 submissions were made on the Revised Project. This included 14 submissions from government agencies and 672 submissions from community and organisations/interest groups. Of the 672 submissions received from the community and organisations/interest groups the majority objected to the Revised Project.

The key issues raised in the submissions included:

- impacts on the community, including those arising from traffic / transport, noise, changes to air quality, blasting, impacts on public health and safety and visual amenity impacts
- social impacts, specifically centred around the anticipated loss of social amenity
- economic impacts to businesses and locals
- loss of biodiversity
- impacts to heritage

A detailed analysis of submissions is available in the Submissions Report which is in turn available on the NSW Major Project Register:
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10051>

Would you like more information?

If you would like any further information in relation to the content of this newsletter or would like to discuss any aspects of the Revised Project please contact us

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