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**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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O/N H-944208

**INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION**

**MEETING WITH:  
FORBES SHIRE COUNCIL  
LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL  
PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL**

**RE: SUNRISE MOD 4**

**PANEL:** **ROSS CARTER  
PROF ALICE CLARK  
DR IAN LAVERING**

**ASSISTING PANEL:** **DAVID KOPPERS  
ALANA JELFS**

**LOCATION:** **PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL  
2 CECILE STREET  
PARKES, NEW SOUTH WALES**

**DATE:** **5.36 PM, TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2018**

MR CARTER: All right. I'll kick off again and, once again, I've got a bit of a set statement that I need to go through first. So good evening. Before we begin, I'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet. I would also like to pay my respects to their elders, past and present, and to the elders from other communities who may be here today. Welcome to the meeting today. Clean TeQ  
5 holdings Limited, the applicant, is proposing to modify its development consent for the Sunrise Project, an approved nickel cobalt scandium mine near Fifield in the central west region of New South Wales. Key elements of the proposal include changes to the mineral processing facility and mine layout and additional supply of limestone from third party suppliers and diversification of the mines water supply to  
10 include surface water from the Lachlan River. My name is Ross Carter. I'm the chair of this IPC panel. Joining me are my fellow commissioners, Professor Alice Clark and Dr Ian Lavering. The other attendees at the meeting are David Koppers and Alan Jelfs from the IPC secretariat. From Forbes Shire Council, Steve Loane, Paul Bennett and Eliza Scarpellino. From Lachlan Shire Council, John Medcalf,  
15 Mark Hall and Greg Tory and - - -

MR .....: ..... councillor.

20 MR CARTER: Sorry. And - - -

MR B. NELSON: Brian Nelson.

MR CARTER: Brian Nelson. Thanks, Brian. And from Parkes Shire Council, Ken  
25 Keith, Kent Board – Boyd, Michael Carter and Barbara Newton. So thank you very much for attending. My apologies for the formality of having transcript. I'll just say that we found today a really good public meeting. I've been involved in quite a number of public meetings, and I thought that the community presented exceptionally well across all of the issues. It's one of the most respectful and orderly  
30 public meetings I've been involved with, with the planning commission process. So I think it's a real credit to the communities of the area that they participated so well in that process. We've obviously listened very carefully and taken a lot of notes on the issues that were raised today, and we'll certainly be digging into those a lot further as we go through our considerations. So I guess to that extent you may well  
35 want to touch on some of the issues raised today, but we have noted the material that the community and, indeed, some of you put forward today in presentation. So we might just kick into Forbes Shire Council. If you could just hop up and run through the issues that you wanted to.

40 MR S. LOANE: Could I just ask you a question?

MR CARTER: Yes.

MR LOANE: It's just as a bit of understanding on our part. We thought that you  
45 three commissioners may have been a little bit more inquisitorial today and ask questions of the people who are speaking. I'm aware that you must have been

concerned about the timeframe, but is that not the way the IPC will be continuing as we go forward?

5 MR CARTER: No. We do have the capacity now. It was – under the Planning Assessment Commission, that didn't happen, but now we do have the capacity to do more inquisitional, but only if necessary. And we felt that the presentations were very clear.

10 MR LOANE: Okay.

MR CARTER: Clearly, we've got a lot of technical questions that arise out of that, that we will be pursuing.

15 MR LOANE: It's not a critique on my part, it's just curiosity, really, because I did read some of the new provisions and I knew that that was available to you and I just wondered, yes. Thank you.

20 MR CARTER: So, yes, if you could just say your name for the transcript as well, thanks, Dave.

MR LOANE: Yes. So this is picking me up now? Can you hear me?

MS .....: Sorry?

25 MR LOANE: Can you hear me on this?

MS .....: Yes.

30 MR LOANE: Good. Thank you. Steve Loane, general manager of Forbes Shire Council, and I thank you for the opportunity to address you. As I mentioned in my address today, we have a little bit more technical information in the address for this one here. I thought it might have been a bit too dry to deliver in today's proceedings. So I will just lead out with that and then I will hand this document up to you, because this is the one that we're actually referring to. We support the project subject to a

35 satisfactory resolution of the risks to our Lachlan River Community from where the water of the project to be sourced and other related matters. And I think we made that quite clear today, that we certainly do support the project and there's just a few things that we need to have ironed out.

40 The facts of this matter is that 19 years ago, an original EIS and hydrological study was done for the borefield deemed to be inadequate by the independent hydrologist, Peter Dundon. They were engaged by the Department of Planning and Environment because it was too concerned about – it too was concerned about the deficiencies. So despite those concerns, the DPE granted approval for theoretical take of 6307

45 millilitres – megalitres, I beg your pardon, of groundwater from the Lachlan, at 200 litres a second. The company holds the bore licence, we all know that information. The pump rate and volume can be increased to the theoretical level if so approved,

and the company is seeking an additional extraction from the Lachlan of surface water of 350 megalitres.

5 Farmers experience suggests that there's adverse draw down impact slightly, and you did hear some of that today from some farmers anecdotally. The important burden of proof of exceedance of limits should not rest with the farmers, because they are not resourced to actually defend themselves, I suppose. Farmers have no voice compared to a miner in having impacts and knowledge and addressed. Consent condition wording relating to water should be made more transparent and measurable to protect innocent parties. Forbes Shire Council is seeking reinstatement of the acquisition condition that was removed at MOD 3 stage. It was contemporised to the consent resulting in a less proscriptive approach to the wording of conditions and, in fact, removed others. The contemporised consent decided by the DPE with the blessing of the proponent, was no community engagement and generated local  
10  
15 mistrust.

And that's one of the points that I was trying to make today, Commissioners, is that the community would have probably had a lot more to embrace if there wasn't that cloak of secrecy and no engagement. The acquisition condition was – sorry, I'm just repeating myself. Was to be reinstated, and given that both government departments and the proponent confident that there was no adverse impacts with a further acquisition clause should not cause a risk to the proponent. Included – including this safety net, community confidence in that their interests are being protected should unforeseen occur. The company should be prepared to support its assessment and show confidence in its modelling.  
20  
25

And I think that something – that that has come through that the company has actually come around to that way of thinking in our discussions with them over the last few months. There's an oddity of allowing a project assessed and approved nearly 20 years now to be built. I think that was covered off pretty well so I will just leave that section there, just for the record. We're not 100 per cent convinced that just handling it through a modification was the right way to go, because there was such a departure. And then at the nth hour to have the major part of the modification to change and have the water haulage to be withdrawn, which we actually wanted, because of the truck traffic that would have been through the village of Bedgerabong. And when you go out on site tomorrow, you will get a good feeling about what that would have done.  
30  
35

The transparency and robustness of consent condition wording, this is where I get a bit dry and technical, I suppose. The wording of some consent conditions incorporates words such as minimise, reasonable, feasible, suitable, sufficient and as soon as practicable. Words – the words are descriptive and subjective with a definition open to different interpretations, and that will only come to be a problem if in the future that the proponent needs to be engaged in some form of dialogue about something that has gone wrong. The consequence of consent conditions that lack transparency is that Clean TeQ receives an added bonus because it enshrines in law unfairness and possibly a denial of natural justice for those who are relatively  
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45

powerless, and you heard today a fair bit about that and that was all about the voluntary acquisition clause.

5 The suggested alterations from Forbes to the draft consent conditions is schedule 2, Administration Conditions: that prior to construction of the pipeline, the applicant provide detailed construction plans to Forbes Shire Council which includes a survey of layout of the pipeline, environmental assessment and any ancillary construction sites, such as heavy vehicle parking and construction site officers; that a copy of written consent from any private landholders within Forbes Shire Council on whose  
10 land construction of the pipeline will take place will be provided to Forbes; that all work, including the installation of utilities in, on or over public roads and road reserves requires consent from council in accordance with section 138 of the Roads Act.

15 The pipeline has been a real issue for us because we do want to help the company get on with it, but we've now been waiting for 10 months for some form of a direction about where they intend in our road reserve – we are the road authority. It's a local road. We don't know where they're proposing to put it. As late as last week there was a discussion that I had with the company where they thought it would be a good  
20 idea to dig a trench up the middle of the road and put the pipeline in the middle of the road. I just think that that is just ludicrous, that they would even have that suggestion, but we also have situations where we've got biodiversity in those road reserves. We don't have as much as what Lachlan has, but on the same token, we are interested to see some of the make-good arrangements that the company would be  
25 proposing. So Forbes requested the wording be amended to state:

*Updating strategies, plans or programs should be subject in consultation with the three impacted councils.*

30 And the phrase “progressive basis” is open to wide interpretation. So we're looking for a redefinition of that for transparency. Forbes requested that additional condition 14(b) be inserted to read:

35 *An access agreement is to be negotiated with Parkes Shire Council, Forbes Shire Council and Lachlan Shire Council for all construction and operation of water pipeline within the councils' road reserves should they all be required.*

And once again, this is all in this document I will hand up. Environmental performance conditions:

40

*Construction noise generators are planned to be used at the borefield.*

I think you heard about that today. The miners have told me that they would be heavily silenced, but on the same token, there will always be that din there in the  
45 background, and the people who have run diesel-operated pumps in that area there have had their own neighbours complain to them and they've actually had to do something else about that. So, hence, Forbes Shire Council requested the word

“minimised” to be made more explicit as to what is required to be achieved. The operation’s noise. Given that Clean TeQ plans to initially use generators at the borefield, Forbes requests that the consent be more expansive and stipulate the entitlements and safeguards afforded to neighbours in the event that the noise exceeds the permissible limits.

Water supply. Forbes submits that this condition requires significant elaboration to define “sufficient water”. The condition needs to be made clear that harvestable rights, borefield supplies and river water supplies will not be increased without full transparent and robust assessment and that Clean TeQ must have operational contingencies embedded in all its management plans. I will just elaborate on that a little bit there for you, Commissioners. The – we’ve been asking for some time for a revisiting of what the DP and E did back in 2000 when they engaged an independent hydrologist. And this is not for us to try and trip them up. This is just to give the community some comfort and some confidence that the – in the ensuing years – the last 18 years, that the 60 extra bores that have gone in are still going to be able to accommodate it. I know they have a licence, and there is no real argument about that. And we’re not arguing in the water space, we’re just trying to make sure that there’s fairness. Covered that. Thank you.

Compensatory water supply. Forbes submits that this condition provides no fairness or balance to the borefield neighbours in the event of adverse impacts. The process outlined will very – will be very time-consuming and, based on the experience of other mine sites, would unlikely to be resolved within an 18-month period. So, once again, if it hits a trigger point that there is adverse impact, there would probably be longer than an 18-months lag time before it would be properly rectified and provides no natural justice for the farmers who have to battle with the company. The wording of this – sorry. Yes. So the wording of this condition will be slightly revamped to provide fairness and protection to farmers and their rights and the words “adversely” and “directly impacted” be clearly and unambiguously defined.

The government placed the burden of proof on the miner to show it has not caused these impacts instead of the other way around, of course. Compensatory water supply measures must provide an alternative long-term supply of water that is equivalent to the loss attributable to the development. Equivalent water supply must be provided at least on an interim basis as soon as possible. The company has made some discussions with the community groups, saying things like, “Well, we will truck water in to you if you’re impacted,” or whatever, and they’re great gestures, but we’re just not real sure about how sustainable that is.

And the water management plan. After the words in the opening sentence – sentence “with Department of Water”, be added “Lachlan Shire Council and Forbes Shire Council”, the condition be reworded to stipulate that the case of groundwater baseline data on water levels yield and quality in a representative sample of 30 groundwater bores within a 10 kilometre radius of the bore be collected throughout the lifetime of the project and be made available to council upon request. That’s obviously just part of that monitoring process. And I know that the Commissioner

for Land and Water, Mr Jock Laurie, has got a process in place at a number of other mines around New South Wales where you can actually go onto the Land and Water website and you can access the monitoring bores in live time. So you can actually – and I – and that’s – we’ve spoken to Clean TeQ about that and they were going to investigate that, but they haven’t come back to us with that. So the onus of proof must be on the developer to prove that its activity has not caused any adverse impact rather than the farmers having to try to convince the miner. And road upgrade and maintenance strategy. Forbes submits that a new condition 43(a) be added:

10           *The program is to be consistent with the terms of the VPA.*

So the two documents line up. Covered that. Adaptive management. The condition 3(a) be altered to read:

15           *Take all steps necessary to ensure that any exceedance ceases forthwith and does not recur.*

Should be an annual review. We submit that there should be an annual review in point (g) stating:

20           *Describe the perception, views and attitudes of the various communities to the performance of the project over the past 12 months; if necessary, what steps is it taking to improve its social standing in the community.*

25           That probably could be handled at CCC level. I am getting near the end here. Incident reporting. Forbes submits that the words “including Parkes Shire Council, Forbes Shire Council and Lachlan Shire Council” be added after the words “any other relevant agencies”. And then we’ve put in place here the draft voluntary planning agreement for your knowledge, and we do have some suggested word changes. And they are just technical word changes to it, so I won’t go through and read that out in its entirety. I’m just going to hand that up, but I think the most-important thing for our message today is to reiterate what those speakers today did to you about the voluntary acquisition process. Thank you. I will give this to you, David.

35           MR CARTER: Great. Thanks very much, Steve.

MR LOANE: And I’ve also got two others here that were left behind: one from Councillor Jenny Webb – sorry, not councillor today. She was just as a ratepayer. There’s one from Darren Cowen. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Steve. Is Lachlan Council going to present now?

MR G. TORY: Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Greg Tory. I’m the general manager of Lachlan Shire Council. I probably won’t be introducing a whole lot of new information today, but I would like to reinforce some points that were made earlier this morning and the feedback that you received from

the members of our community. I'll start by saying that Lachlan Shire Council is in support of the project subject to satisfactory conditions of consent. We state that – from the outset, that we support the concerns of our community in that regard. We're of the view that the community concerns can, in the main, be resolved by the imposition of satisfactory conditions of consent.

Council's submission to the Department of Planning on the modification for proposed consent conditions outlines concern with the proposed Modification 4. Council understands that many of the proposed conditions are standard conditions that are applied as appropriate to state significant development. These conditions are outcome based and set thresholds that proponents are expected to comply with. While these conditions may be appropriate from an agency point of view, they are not necessarily easily interpreted by the community, and the line of sight in terms of monitoring and rectification is often unclear. This lack of transparency contributes to the community concerns. Conditions of consent are not just for the benefit of proponents and regulators. They are to provide a level of protection and comfort for the community and on the basis – sorry, and, on that basis, they should be readily understood.

It appears that the burden of proof in relation to the exceedance of relevant admissions, criteria rests with the impacted individuals and their success in having issues addressed will be based on individual capacity to convince regulators to take action to investigate the breaches. This is onerous and should be addressed in the modification conditions. Council's submission to the Department of Planning and Environment requested alteration to numerous proposed conditions of consent. Many of these have not been agreed to by the department. We have attached, with our submission to the department, outlining the request for modification of the proposed conditions.

You received a copy of that this morning. We have attached a document for the consideration of the IPC outlining requested modification conditions. In relation to the acquisition clauses – and I know that that initially related to Modification 3, but it was of such concern to the community, as you heard today, that we want to reinforce our support for that. Council's submission provided comment to the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to Modification 4, but also provided comment in relation to parts of the existing consent that was contemporised in Modification 3. There was no consultation undertaken by the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to Modification 3, contemporisation of the consent.

Modification 3 removes the condition providing the opportunity for acquisition of property. We request this clause removed without discussion with affected property owners be reinstated. Given the confidence of the government and the proponent that no adverse off-set impacts will occur – pardon me – property acquisition is not a risk proposition for the proponent. The department indicates since there is little likelihood that the thresholds will be exceeded, there is no need for the acquisition clause, if that were the case. Council disagrees with the Department of Planning and Environment on that position. Thank you very much.



MR CARTER: Thanks very much, Greg. Parkes Shire Council.

MR K. KEITH: Commissioners, thank you very much for the opportunity just to present to you today. Ours is not so much a technical presentation. It's one more of  
5 the philosophy behind it and the impact on the Parkes Shire because we're not – the mine is not on our soil. It's on Lachlan Shire and we haven't got a water pipeline as such being impacted. So we're talking more about the impacts of the mine on our community and the benefits and disbenefits of that. The Parkes community has a long history of mining. We've had – we started as a goldmining town called  
10 Bushman as many as 100 years ago, and we've had mining ever since. And more recently, the Northparkes Copper Mine has been under way and, in fact, Parkes Shire Council was the consent authority for the DA for the Northparkes Mine.

And, of course, these days it would be a state significant development. So we went  
15 through significant planning approvals through that process 25 years ago. So we know a little bit about mining. The water issue was an issue at that time and the acquisition of land and so forth. But at the end of the day, our community has embraced mining and the impact of mining on our community has been a positive one. We do agree that there should be the appropriate safeguards in place and  
20 encourage the development to proceed in a way that takes consideration of the surrounding landholders and the impact that it has on the surrounding shires and so forth. But it is a very key cornerstone of the Parkes economy.

It employs six per cent of our workforce and mining represents 30 per cent of the  
25 GDP of Parkes Shire Council. So it's a very important economic driver for our community. And in terms of water, the dollar return per kilolitre water used by Northparkes Mine relative to businesses in Parkes or in other areas or an irrigator on the Lachlan River is significantly higher for the State of New South Wales. And I don't think we should lose sight of the fact that irrigating a crop of Lucerne might  
30 return X dollars, but using some water to get some value adding to minerals returns 100 times X. It really is a significant difference when those figures are calculated out. And I haven't got up-to-date figures, but certainly figures in the past were a significant difference.

And I think we need to make sure that as a nation we use our water to a high-end  
35 value as much as possible. And mining to me is one of those things that actually demonstrates the return to our economy. The next slide is one straight out of the Northparkes report for 2017, which indicates that Northparkes contributed \$79.1 million to the central west through salaries, sponsorships, government dues and  
40 payments to local businesses. And the year ..... employed 313 people, so very similar to what Clean TeQ is proposing during the year and paid salaries of 28.2 million to Parkes residents and 4.4 million to employees in Forbes. A more detailed breakdown of those figures is there for you, which shows that mining is very much a regional impact.

45 And although Lachlan isn't included in Northparkes, there's figures because those who sort of live a bit outside that horizon, you can see how the Clean TeQ mine will

have an impact on all three shires and we will all derive some benefit out of it. We've been a long time stakeholder in the Sunrise Project. We had negotiations and discussions with Black Range Minerals Syerston Nickel Cobalt Project during the mid-1990s up to 2000 and, of course, now with Clean TeQ Sunrise Project to the –  
5 from now or from 2001 to the present time. So our interest in the project – we're an adjoining Local Government authority. Obviously, that's really quite important, but what is important is the townships of Bogan Gate, Trundle and Tullamore are in very close proximity to the mine, and those three villages or towns are within our shire boundary.

10 There will be 1.9 million-odd – sorry, 1.9 billion in salaries over the life of a mine, a 1000 jobs during construction and 300 operational staff long term. And what we would like to think is that the impact – because of those close proximity of those three towns that they will benefit by people accommodating themselves in close  
15 proximity to the mine to save longer travel times to Parkes or Forbes or back into Condobolin. Those towns will see an increase in population, which will give some strength to those communities in terms of numbers attending the schools, hospital facilities and so forth. The list goes on. And we believe it will be a very important in those smaller rural communities as much as it will be important to the larger  
20 centres of Parkes, Forbes and Condobolin.

The local road, the network will be impacted by the development. And I think the Clean TeQ Sunrise people need to be able to make some contributions to that road network that they will impact on. We have agreements with Northparkes on their  
25 contribution to the road network, particularly from a safety issue of people travelling between Northparkes and the Parkes township. And I think people – Clean TeQ should make sure that the road conditions are maintained in a safe condition for the benefit of those employees that are travelling on that road. I believe they have a duty of care to those particular employees. Middle Trundle Road will become the main  
30 link between Trundle and Parkes and, therefore, between Clean TeQ and any employees that are living and residing in Parkes will use the middle Trundle Road. We've been progressively sealing that road over the last three to four years, and the last section will be sealed within the next six months. So we will have a fully sealed road. So that road has gone from 17 kilometres of gravel section on it now to being  
35 fully sealed. And that road will now, instead of going through Bogan Gate and using the Condobolin Road, will probably become the main arterial road for use by the mine. And I believe that they need to have a contribution to the maintenance of that particular section of road.

40 The regional economic impacts of the mine, to me Clean TeQs investment and operation will attract increased jobs to the region, to new residents and opportunities for local businesses and stimulating economic growth in the region. And I believe all three shires will benefit from that economic impact, so I am including the region rather than just the Parkes Shire in those comments.

45 The voluntary planning agreement which has \$200,000 going to Lachlan Shire and 100,000 each to Forbes and Parkes Shire Councils, will see the opportunity to invest

those money in asset management and upgrades in essential community structure which, although 100,000 doesn't seem much for Parkes in a one-year event, but over the 40-year lifespan of the mine, it runs into a significant contribution to our community. We will be contributing to improved community facilities, the attraction  
5 of new residents that will come into our towns, the population growth will stimulate development of even greater community facilities and trigger improves access to services. And I'm thinking about internet and the NBN and so forth that will come, because you need that connectivity at a mine site for workers and safety, particularly with the headquarters planned to be in Parkes.

10

The Mid Lachlan Alliance was an organisation formed between the councils, that was quite strong, 10 years ago. It has waned in recent years but I believe that we have an opportunity now as a – to work together even more closely with the Clean TeQ mine development, so that we're on a similar page and expressing similar  
15 views, reflecting not only our own shire's population's thoughts and wishes, but the whole region's desire to see this mine go ahead with all the appropriate controls in place. We are an events-based town and that's why the Abba Festival was featured in those particular photographs.

20

An example of the cooperation we've had is the Parkes Shire Council recently established in Forbes Shire, a water tank inlet on the Lachlan River. And that water then feeds to not only the Parkes Council but out to Peak Hill and also out to Northparkes Mine, and it gives us another option compared to just the bore water, and lake Endeavour where we source our water supply from. We've just spent \$100  
25 million on new water and sewage treatment plants, and also a water recycling facility, so we're utilising that water on an ongoing basis. And I think what we have done can be mirrored by Clean TeQ in that they could have a collaboration of bore water, river intake and also using as much recycling as they can on site. And I think if they put that combination together, they can have minimal impact on the water  
30 resources of the region and get that high value added value from water use that mining can deliver.

30

The long-term prosperity of the region often hinges on major developments and I believe Clean TeQ, if it has a roughly 40-year mine life, it will – it delivers long-term  
35 sustainability to the Lachlan, Forbes and Parks Shires, and that we can work together to ensure that that progresses and happens and we see increased housing, increased population as part of that. And I think we will see increased development as well and I will talk a little bit about that now in terms of the aspirations that we have for the Sunrise Project.

40

We trust that the nickel-cobalt project does gain all the necessary approvals and is able to commence its operation at Fifield on the program construction start of – start date of 2019. I believe planning – and there's a couple of planners in the room. I don't want to cast aspersions on them at all, but I think planning often puts all the  
45 things you can't do on a document and worry about those rather than the things that should put in a document to help facilitate and encourage a development to occur.

45

And at times I think we get lost in that negative detail rather than the positive story that can come out of a planning document.

5 We've developed a positive relationship with Clean TeQ since they've come on to the scene. And they've had us on site and all the mayors have been out there and staff, investigating the size of the project, and you don't get an appreciation until you actually walk the site to under the enormity of the project that is being proposed out at Fifield. We had that positive relationship, and that was evident at the Minerals Council on the – or mining related councils awards down in Sydney recently.

10 One thing that I think we need to give Clean TeQ a great pat on the back for is that they had a choice of establishing their headquarters of 100-odd people in Perth or where they currently exist, or maybe in Newcastle, where they're intending to export out of, or establishing in the region, and they chose to situate it in Parkes We have a three times daily flight in and out of Parkes Regional Airport, that services both Forbes and Lachlan Shires, so it's the regional airport hub for the region. And it will be the airport that Clean TeQ will use to ferry staff in and out of the region. So it was the obvious choice for the region for that to be located in our community.

20 But we're very pleased that they chose to locate it in the region and not out of the region and somewhere else in Australia. So we were naturally very delighted when that news came through. And I think the flow-on effect of that is if you've got 100 people, some may well like to live on the north shore of the area, in that southern suburb of Forbes – at Lake Forbes, and live in that lovely community, or decide that they would rather live out at Condo as well and enjoy the benefits of, you know, Gum Bed Lake or whatever it might be. So, to me, having them in the region enables that accommodation to occur and receive the benefits of an increasing population from this particular project.

30 I think there's going to be new opportunities created by Clean TeQ. It will bring some new technology, that is world-leading technology, to our area, and I think that will, in turn, attract businesses that are looking for technology in that area. I can remember back when there was an organisation that wanted to use – or process copper using a very similar electrolysis technique and was going to be established in Parkes and utilise the copper mining from Parkes. That technology went overseas and was totally then buried by major companies who had spent money on investing in smelters. So the world has missed out on that technology as a result of that operation not proceeding, and I think we need to be careful here that we don't lose the technology that Clean TeQ have come up with in the way that they process the ore in a very environmentally friendly way.

45 The Parkes National Logistics Hub is more now than a dream. It's actually becoming a reality. We have SCT operating out of the Parkes National Logistics Hub now. They run a couple of trains a week to Perth, with double-stacking allowed between Parkes and Perth. Linfox also operate out of there and they run six to eight trains per week along that major western line. It will be the only place in Australia that the western line – Sydney to Perth line intersect with the Melbourne to Brisbane

Inland Rail line and so that's why it's a national logistics hub and been recognised by the State Government with an activation zone on that particular hub area looking at the opportunities that it will create for the region.

5 We believe that Clean TeQ could well benefit by utilising that hub and that access to  
transport links out of the Parkes hub, not only to produce the minerals necessary to  
create the batteries and sending that mineral overseas – why can't Australia produce  
those batteries here and distribute them around Australia from the national logistics  
10 sense. You're not allowed to transport batteries in a ship or on a plane overseas. So  
it makes it pretty hard for Australia to import or export batteries because if one  
battery goes off on a shipload of batteries – it only takes one battery to go AWOL. It  
can cause a chain reaction and it can actually sink that ship. So we think we should  
be distributing batteries and making them here in Australia, and I think there's  
15 opportunities such as that that will present themselves if this mine proceeds.

There's over 1 million batteries now in cars in the world. I think Europe – there's  
25 per cent electric cars. Australia has less than one per cent of electric cars in  
Australia – well behind world standards when it comes to Europe, but a lot of the  
20 batteries – they have a 10-year shelf life, and a lot of the early batteries that have  
gone into electric cars are now hitting that shelf life, and there's no reason why the  
cathodes out of those batteries couldn't be put in an autoclave at Clean TeQ and  
recycle those batteries. Putting straight metal into the conclave makes it a lot easier  
to recover the metal than it does if you putting one and a half per cent of mineral out  
25 of rock in there – in your enclave. So I think there's an opportunity to probably  
recycle batteries as well as manufacture them in Australia.

I think Clean TeQ are well-positioned to take and leverage the benefits of the Inland  
Rail. Construction will start on the Inland Rail within the next month. So it's all  
30 about to happen, and it's about a \$10 billion project that the Federal Government is  
funding and we – that will give access to the ports of New South Wales, Queensland  
and Victoria. So the Inland Rail will be linked not only to Brisbane and Melbourne,  
but it will also be linked to the three New South Wales ports, which the State  
Government has now recognised as being a very essential ingredient for the New  
35 South Wales economy is to link Newcastle, Port Botany and Port Kembla to the  
Inland Rail as well, and that will create competition between the ports. It will help  
drive down prices for exports and imports, not only encouraging companies like  
Clean TeQ, but other operations to establish in regional New South Wales and help  
develop the economy of the bush and take some of the pressure off our capital cities.  
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Now, we finish up by saying Clean TeQ plus Parkes, it all adds up, and that was  
taken off the initial promotion that we actually did to try and get the headquarters  
here, but I think you could actually take out "Parkes" and put "the region there" – the  
Lachlan region. It all adds up for Clean TeQ and the region to work together and  
45 benefit not only the economy of our region, but the economy of our nation. Thank  
you very much for the opportunity to present to you today.

MR CARTER: Thanks very much, Ken. So that concludes the meeting from our perspective unless there was anything else anyone wanted to add before we close off.

MR LOANE: I've got something to say.

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MR CARTER: Yes, Steve.

MR LOANE: .....

10 MR .....: You need to stand at the microphone, of course.

MS .....: Yes.

MR CARTER: Yes. It might be easier if you stand. Thanks, Steve.

15

MR LOANE: Thank you. Just following on from Mayor Keith's address just then. He touched on the value of water. And in a discussion that I had with the Department of Planning – and this reinforces the reason why the exceedances need to be really well and truly nailed down. Because the value of water coming out of the bore field, in agricultural terms, is about \$12 million per annum. Sounds like a lot of money. When you extrapolate that out to the miners, the value of that same water is \$450 million per annum.

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So the point to that is not to diminish the situation with the agricultural water; it is actually to drive home the reinforcement that when something goes awry and there's a need for an approach to the government, there's going to be little appetite for a consideration for the water impact for the agricultural people as against the miner because there's such a vast difference in the value to the region, and not only to the region, but also to the national GDP as well. So I just thought it's important when you're doing the considerations there that – if we can get these levels right in the first instance and it gives the community comfort, then when they're having to go up against the big miner because something may have gone wrong – let's all hope that it doesn't – then they will still have some power in the fact that it's embedded in the conditions. Thank you.

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MR CARTER: Thanks, Steve. Well, once again, thank you very much and, as I mentioned earlier, we found today's public meeting a really valuable one and the presentation is really high quality and thanks very much for all the council presentations. And I think we have all of the submissions from councils as well, which provides a lot of the detail that you've gone through too. So from here, we go into our consideration mode as a panel. If we need any additional information, we do ask for that and we generally ask for a range of things from agencies as well as potentially from council and certainly from the proponent. So thank you very much for your time and I'll - - -

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MR LOANE: There was - - -

MR CARTER: Steve.

MR LOANE: - - - some questions asked at today's thing – sorry. I'm not at a  
5 microphone. You said there had been considerations. Do you have any idea of the  
timeframe?

MR CARTER: We don't give a timeframe. We do try to consider as soon as  
possible and it does depend on how much additional information that we need to go  
10 to before we can come to a conclusion. But we try and operate as quickly as  
possible, but we are very mindful of the fact that we need to traverse all of the  
technical information and make sure that we're satisfied that we've got answers to  
what we need answers to before we conclude it. But – so all we can say is as soon as  
we can, Steve. It's certainly a high priority for us.

15 MR LOANE: Okay. Thanks.

MR CARTER: Thank you. All right. I think we might close there. Thanks very  
much.

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**MATTER ADJOURNED at 6.22 pm INDEFINITELY**