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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

RE: SUNRISE MOD 4

PANEL:

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

ASSISTING PANEL:

**DAVID KOPPERS
ALANA JELFS**

LOCATION:

**PARKES LEAGUES CLUB
192 CLARINDA STREET
PARKES, NEW SOUTH WALES**

DATE:

10.07 AM, TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2018

MR R. CARTER: Good morning. I need to do an opening statement at the commencement of the meeting, so I will just commence that now. So good morning. Before we begin, I would 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,
5 and to the elders from other communities who may be here today. Welcome to this public meeting on the proposed modification from Clean TeQ Holdings Limited, the applicant, who is seeking 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
10 processing facility and mine layout, an additional supply of limestone from third-party suppliers and diversification of the mine's water supply to include surface water from the Lachlan River.

My name is Ross Carter. I am the chair of this Independent Planning Commission of
15 New South Wales panel which has been appointed to help determine this proposal. Joining me are my fellow Commissioners, Professor Alice Clark and Dr Ian Lavering, and Alana Jelfs and David Koppers from the Commission Secretariat. Before I continue, I should state that all appointed Commissioners must make an annual declaration of interest, identifying potential conflicts with their appointed
20 role. For the record, we are unaware of any conflicts in relation to our determination of this proposed modification. You can find additional information on the way we manage potential conflicts in our policy paper which is available on the IPCN website.

25 In the interests of openness and transparency, today's meeting is being recorded and a full transcript will be produced and made available on the Commission's website. So the purpose of the meeting – this public meeting gives us the opportunity to hear your views on the assessment report prepared by the Department of Planning and Environment before we determine the development application.

30 What is the IPC and what role do we play in this determination? So the Independent Planning Commission of New South Wales was established by the New South Wales Government on 1 March 2018 as an independent statutory body operating separately to the Department of Planning and Environment. The Commission plays an
35 important role in strengthening transparency and independence in the decision-making processes for major development and land use planning in New South Wales. The key functions of the Commission include to determine state-significant development applications, conduct public hearings for development applications and other matters, and provide independent expert advice on any other planning and
40 development matter when requested by the Minister for planning or the planning secretary.

The Commission is an independent consent authority for state-significant
45 development applications and provides an additional level of scrutiny where there are more than 25 objections, reportable political donations or objections by the relevant local council. The Commission is not involved in the department's assessment of

this project, the preparation of their report or any findings within it. So where are we in the process? This meeting is one part of our decision process. We've also been briefed by the department, met with the applicant and, this afternoon, we will meet with Forbes, Parkes and Lachlan Shire Councils in a combined council meeting.

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Tomorrow, we will be visiting the mine site and borefields. This will also include travelling along the proposed transport route from Parkes through Trundle and Fifield to the site. After today's meeting, we may convene with relevant stakeholders if clarification or additional information is required on matters raised.

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Records of all meetings will be included in our determination report, which will be published to the IPCN website. So written comments – the Commission will continue to accept written comments until 5 pm on 23 October. You can all do so by sending your comments to the Commission by email or post and address details provided on our website and you can pass that on to anyone that was unable to attend as well, but obviously we do read all comments that are sent in, so it's a very useful way of connecting with us.

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The next steps – following today's meeting, we will endeavour to determine the development application as soon as possible. However, there may be delays if we find need for additional information. So today's ground rules – before we hear from our first registered speaker, I would like to lay some ground rules that we expect everyone taking part in today's meeting to follow. First, today's meeting is not a debate. Our panel will not take questions from the floor and no interjections are allowed. Our aim is to provide the maximum opportunity for people to speak and be heard by the panel. Public speaking is an ordeal for many people. Though you may not agree with everything you hear today, each speaker has the right to be treated with respect and heard in silence.

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Today's focus is public consultation. Our panel is here to listen, not to comment. We may ask questions for clarification but this is usually unnecessary. It will be most beneficial if your presentation is focused on issues of concern to you. It is important that everyone registered to speak receives a fair share of time. I will enforce timekeeping rules for the time that each speaker has nominated for their speaking time. As the chair, I reserve the right to allow additional time for provision of further technical materials. A warning bell will sound one minute before the speaker's allotted time is up and again when it runs out. Please respect these time limits. Though we will strive to stick to our schedule today, speakers sometimes don't show up or decide not to speak. If you know someone who will not be attending, please advise either Alana Jelfs or David Koppers and I just reiterate that written comments are most welcome after the meeting for anyone that was unable to attend.

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If you would like to project something onto the screen, please give it to Alana Jelfs or David Koppers before your presentation. If you have a copy of your presentation, it would be appreciated if you would provide a copy to the secretariat after you speak. Please not any information given to us may be made public and the Commission's privacy statement governs our approach to your information. If you

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would like a copy of our privacy statement, you can obtain one from our website. Audio recording of this meeting is not allowed except for the official recording for transcription purposes. Notes made throughout the day on issues raised will be summarised in our determination report. Finally, I would ask that everyone present
5 please turn their mobile phones to silent. Thank you and I will now call the first speaker. So Sam Riggall. There's a microphone there. If you just switch it on, thanks, Sam.

10 MR S. RIGGALL: Great. Thank you for the Commissioners for today and, particularly, thank you for those members of the community who have attended today and many of you who have travelled a long way to be here. My name is Sam Riggall. I'm the CEO of Clean TeQ. I won't speak long today because I don't believe it's – this is our presentation. This is for the community and a hearing to
15 hear the opinions of community members. This is an important project for both Australia and New South Wales. This one of the largest greenfield mining projects in Australia today. It will cost approximately \$2 billion to build and it will be producing products that are going to be targeted for one of the fastest growing technology developments taking place in the world today and that is batteries.

20 We will be producing nickel and cobalt products that will go into batteries that will power electric vehicles and bridge scale storage. Australia is currently the world's largest producer of lithium. The other key product that goes into these batteries is nickel and cobalt and Australia has a chance to be a world leader in the production of these materials. In fact, the development of Clean TeQ Sunrise's project here will
25 catapult Australia into being the world's second largest producer of cobalt and the third largest producer of nickel. The downstream flow-on of impacts and benefits for central-west New South Wales are also substantial. There is the ability to build industries around this mine, whether it's in precursor manufacture, cathode manufacture or battery assembly. Even battery recycling has the ability to be
30 incorporated with the development of this asset.

Local benefits are significant, as we've said in our submissions: over 1000 jobs through the peak of construction and 300 in steady state operations; approximately
35 \$2 billion over 25 years in salaries and wages, most of that spent locally; over 2 billion in royalties and government taxes, both at a state and federal level; we have in-principle agreement for a VPA with the local councils, which are now on public submission and display, which will guarantee approximately \$18 million over the life of those agreements. Most importantly, though, education, training and skills
40 development for running a business like this will be a major focus of our investment because we need a long-term, steady, well-trained and experienced workforce to run this asset.

45 What is MOD 4? MOD 4 is a range of modifications we have proposed to the approved development consent to optimise this project. It has a number of implications directly for the community, which have been identified through the public submissions process, mostly around water, around traffic management and around emissions. We have listened and we have tried to respond where people have

5 raised concern and we're not going to make everyone happy here. We understand that but, in the area of traffic, for example, we have made commitments at the strong petitioning of Forbes Council on behalf of their constituents, not to haul water, so we are committing to take construction water from the borefields through a constructed pipeline.

10 We have made commitments to run larger trucks to reduce the amount of traffic flow on the roads and also to shuttle our workforce backwards and forwards, reducing individual vehicles on the roads. The actual traffic movements from these changes to the MOD that we proposed has resulted in a reduction in the total amount of traffic moving across the project and through Trundle. On water management and water usage, we have significantly reduced the size of our evaporation ponds. We are recycling a significantly larger amount of water, and we have looked to diversify the sources of water from the bores to also accessing from surface water at the Lachlan River. That was part of the MOD.

15 Also undertaken a significant bore census with – you know, quite extensive engagement with a number of local water users over that time. We've removed stacks from the plant, and we've removed the production of hydrogen sulphide from the operation. What I would like to emphasise is that this MOD is not the end of how we manage environment and community concerns. We now have to engage on a range of environmental water operation mining management plans that will now be drafted in accordance with industry best practice.

20 We're a highly regulated industry, and we take our obligations seriously. Our community team is local; you've engaged with many of them. They have a vested interest in seeing this community thrive and prosper. We thank you for those who have engaged with us, because in the – even though in areas where we haven't agreed, the engagement has been respectful, and we thank you for that. We hope that those of you who attend today do voice your opinions. We are here to listen, and we will take those on board. Thank you.

25 MR CARTER: Thanks, Sam. Mayor Ken Keith OAM from Parkes Shire Council.

30 CR K. KEITH OAM: Commissioner Ross Carter, and the other Commissioners, my fellow Mayor Councillor John Medcalf from Lachlan Shire, ladies and gentlemen. Parkes has had a long history of mining, and my presentation this morning will be reasonably brief, because we will actually have the opportunity late this afternoon to make a more formal presentation to the Commission.

35 We started off as a town called Bushman's which was named after the Bushman's Gold Mine, so we go back a long way. And we continue to embrace mining with appropriate safeguards in our community. The North Parkes Mine is an example of one that has been operating in our shire for the past 20-odd years, and an example of how a mining operation and a community can work together for the benefit of all.

To me, the approval process should be transparent, but not have unnecessary road bumps in the way to approve – or the planning should be a way of trying to facilitate development rather than trying to find reasons why development shouldn't happen. If we look at the Parkes Shire at the moment, six per cent of our workforce is
5 engaged in mining and that represents 30 per cent of our cross-regional product, some enormous contribution to the economy of the Parkes Shire.

The townships of Trundle, Tullamore and Bogan Gate will be very close in proximity to the Fifield Mine and we're going to have to ensure, as the shire council,
10 to look after those communities and try and see them develop and grow as well, and we see the opportunities that will come from the Clean TeQ operation being able to improve those towns and give them a much brighter future than they have at the moment.

15 New jobs that will be created by Clean TeQ, which will be 1000 during construction and 300 ongoing jobs from the next 40-odd years, will be of huge benefit not only those communities just near the mine, but for the whole region. And we see this as being a huge regional impact on the mining operation – that benefits not just Parkes Shire but Lachlan Shire and Forbes Shire as well. We see us as all being
20 beneficiaries, and that's why the shires have come together and signed a voluntary planning agreement, and Clean TeQ will be contributing 400,000 every year towards infrastructure in those shires.

Overall, during the life of the mine there will be \$1.9 billion in employee salaries
25 flowing through our communities, and I think that's going to be very important for communities out in this part of the world. The Mid Lachlan Alliance was a grouping of Forbes, Parkes and Lachlan Shire together with Weddin Shire that worked together as a group back in the last 10 years or so. Another thing that this mine has the opportunity to reinvigorate that group so that we work together more closely and
30 are able to help the region grow and develop.

As most of you would be aware, the National Logistics Hub will be established at Parkes, and the flow-on effects of the activation zone that the State Government is currently funding the business study to will have a flow-on effect to the whole
35 region, and I think that will be important for the Clean TeQ operations moving forward.

We trust the Clean TeQ will gain all the necessary approvals, and all the financials necessary for the 2019 start of construction. We were delighted when Sam rang to
40 let us know that Parkes could be the headquarters of the Clean TeQ operations for the region. Parkes was up against Perth and Newcastle for the – that particular operation, and I think everyone in the region will be very pleased that their headquarters of their operations will be based in our region and not in Newcastle or Perth, or somewhere further afield. So I will be delighted that we will be able to host
45 a lot of those employees, and I'm sure some of them will be living in Forbes Shire or in Lachlan Shire or whatever – that will be their choice, along with all the other employees who will be working in the mine.

5 I think there's potential, as they go forward. I would like to see, with my visionary hat on, not only – just producing the nickel and the cobalt, but also processing those into batteries and using them in the Parkes National Logistics Hub, making this a centre for production and manufacturing of batteries, so rather than sending the raw product overseas, let's start manufacturing in Australia and see the benefit that will flow from that.

10 There's something like a million batteries out in the world at the moment that will need to be recycled, so there's no reason that recycling couldn't take place in our region as well. The inland rail will start construction in a couple of weeks time, and I think Clean TeQ will be able to leverage off the benefits of the inland rail as well. And, in summary, we have a theme in Parkes and to live and work in Parkes, and we believe that Parkes and Clean TeQ – it all adds up to a great future. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

15 MR CARTER: Thanks, Keith. Mayor John Medcalf from Lachlan Shire Council.

20 CR J. MEDCALF: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. And it's great to be in the little township of Parkes, and to the Commissioners, welcome to Parkes. We would have liked to have seen you in Condobolin in Lachlan Shire, but you've chosen to come here. But just a reminder, everybody, that the mine is in Lachlan Shire – in the great little town of Fifield. And, also, I would like to recognise our Mayor here – Ken Keith OAM. He's a good friend and was even working with this project for quite a long time. And I would like to congratulate Clean TeQ on the way that they have gone about consulting with the community – with the councils, especially Forbes, Lachlan and Parkes, because there is implications on those three councils that make this mine come to fruition, and I would like to congratulate them on that.

30 And especially with the community and that sort of thing, we've been very open when it comes to allowing people to come and see us on a regular basis, and I hope that will continue, because the mine hasn't started yet, then planning hasn't been put forward yet or finished, and if there's any further community consultation that needs to be done, especially with Lachlan, we've very open – the door is open at all times.

35 Today I think we're looking at the MOD 4, which is – which we've – have got a hearing on at the moment, and – with people speaking today. And I just – just a couple of things about the MOD 4. Mining is more selective in this increased processing facilities so the mine has certainly got a very – when it comes to what it's actually mining – not only nickel, cobalt and – but scandium as well.

40 And the thing is that MOD 4 also takes in the addition of drilling and blasting of the mine site, which has always been a concern with people, and an increase in sulphur demands, sulphuric production and leaching addition, because they're going to use a lot more sulphur than they thought – lime than they thought they were going to use in the first place, so that is creating concerns not only for us but also for Trundle,

transport and there because I think it has to come from three different places to make it viable.

5 Changes for the process input product and road transport requirements – and I think that’s just one thing that we just don’t realise that what’s going to happen with an area is what such a big game changer will be for our area in the matter of transport. Transport is increasing at the moment because of the bitumen road from Amundari to Hillston, but with this development happening, where there will be a lot more traffic happening around the area – and so therefore road upgrades and that sort of thing
10 will definitely have to happen, you know, to create that safety.

15 And the other issue which Forbes has got the is the water – the water coming out of that – coming out of the Lachlan River, and the water pipeline, I think, is around about 80 kilometres up to the mine site, which is going to be run along, actually – road alignment all the way up there to try and save going through people’s
15 properties, that sort of thing, and we just don’t realise how important is, you know, because water – not only for mining, but also for communities who actually survive, and so – therefore that – it’s a very, very important thing.

20 And I know Clean TeQ has been taking on, really, the evaporation ponds – the capacity, due to their recycling process of water – so there will be a lot of recycling, especially with the way we go about turning water around today and I think, as technology increases – you know, like, that will happen even further, and also the addition of maybe taking surface water from around the area to try and help reduce
25 the amount of water that we are taking out of the Lachlan River, and also the gas and – which comes up off from the processing – that sort of thing – I think a lot of that is going to be used for power generation and we just hope that, as technology goes along with that as well, that we can use more and more of that to – so they’re self-sustaining when it comes to electricity and that they’re only using the line that comes
30 in as a back-up.

Also, we are – as I’ve mentioned, we are of the view that the community concerns can and may be resolved by the imposition of satisfactory conditions of consent and I think this is how important that the planning Commissioner has to really look at
35 because people do have varied visions on what does happen and it’s trying to find that middle ground that’s going to be – it’s hard sometimes but we have to – we’ve got to look at the overall process, the outcome and what benefit it will do to the whole area. Council understands that many of the proposed conditions are standard conditions that are applied as appropriate in a state-significant development, and I
40 think the standard conditions which people find a little bit hard to understand because they’ve never been a part of what is happening out there – I think that’s the hardest thing people are finding – you know, especially with water and because we know what happens when floods happen.

45 We know what happens when there’s processing and gases around and keeping things maintained but all this has been covered, you know, through the mod form and the planning Commission will actually look at it, and it appears that the burden of

proof in relation to exceedance of relevant emissions criteria rests with impacted individuals. Their success at having issues addressed will be based on individual capacity to convince the regulators to take action to investigate a breach.

5 This is onerous and should be addressed in the modification because we don't need
people out in the public actually trying to make determinations on what is right and
what is wrong and I think what we have with this mine is – actually, everything is at
a low point of when it comes to exceeding whatever – you know, whether it's water
or gases or dams or whatever and what's happening there and I think it's a big
10 enough site that we can be contained or within the whole thing and the council's
submission for the Department of Planning and Environment requested alterations to
numerous proposed conditions on consent.

Many of these have been agreed to by the department and I think we've – because
15 I've actually given the planning Commission their summary of the MOD 4 for them,
which I think we've already made application to present through before and we've
given them another copy there to cover and I think that's very good that – very
interesting to see that something like this out here is going to happen because it's
something that – we just don't realise what change this will be, not only for Parkes
20 but for the whole region right around and the amount of money that it will bring in
and I really endorse Mayor Ken Keith's words about what it will do for this area.

I think it will be a fantastic thing and it's great that Parkes, Lachlan and Forbes are
working together to try and make this come to fruition. I thank you very much for
25 the opportunity of allowing me to speak here today because we're all very, very
excited about this project coming to fruition and we hope that it does get that way
and I look forward to catching up with the planning Commission later this afternoon.
Thank you very much.

30 MR CARTER: Thanks, John. Mary Ewing from Lachlan Valley Water.

MS M. EWING: Thank you, Ross – Commissioners. Thank you for the
opportunity to speak. Lachlan Valley Water is the peak valley-based industry body
representing groundwater and surface water users in the Lachlan catchment. We
35 represent over 500 members and our membership is voluntary. Our committee has
had presentation from Clean TeQ executives and I've also attended one of the public
meetings at Warroo. Concerned Bore Residents were present. So I want to speak
only on the water supply issue and, as an organisation, our objectives are, you know,
sustainable, efficient, productive water use and that requires sound water
40 management.

So in terms of the mine's requirements and the dual objectives of underpinning the
security of the mine's supply and of mitigating the risk that there may be localised
groundwater drawdown that would affect either stock and domestic bores or
45 irrigation bores in the vicinity of the bores that Clean TeQ will be operating, we
believe that that there is significant benefit in greater surface water access for the
mine and I note that the 350 megalitres licence, as it's currently held, is .17 per cent

of the 20-year rolling average usage out of the Lachlan service water, which is a bit of 200,000 gegalitres, so to have additional service and supply over that, our organisation believes it would not have a significant impact on the productivity from irrigation on the Lachlan River. Thank you.

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MR CARTER: Thanks, Mary, and Wynne Dunford.

MR W. DUNFORD: Thank you, Commissioner. Ladies and gentlemen, if I could just correct a slight typo – W-a-y-n-e. Not a major issue. Mr Commissioner, I –
10 before I speak, I think I should declare a couple of caps I wear and an interest in this whole project. I am on the New South Wales Farmers BEAT Committee – Business, Economic and Trade Committee – and I chair the National Farmers Federation Economic and Farm Business Committee. I’m not speaking on behalf of those
15 organisations. I would like to speak today in support of this project as a farmer that lives 25 kilometres just west of Parkes.

I will also declare an interest in this project, as we on our property have a limestone mine that will be supplying the limestone for Clean TeQ at Fifield in the processing. So I declare and, fully aware of the comment I would make there, it’s interesting that
20 limestone can be sourced from various quarries. Ours happens to be the closest one to the project and it has been tested and proven to be a resource that’s there and available.

What I would like to do is just speak, if I could, from a farmer’s perspective, living
25 in a community that already has one large mine, and my first comment is, as we all know, that drought in agriculture can have some devastating effect on communities and towns and I think what we see in Northparkes Mine, which has changed this town, I believe, considerably – it has made it economically a lot more viable and another mine in close proximity will do exactly that same – but I think the biggest
30 thing that comes out of this – that these two mines – and I know Northparkes, in particular – this one will be the same – they’re not fly-in fly-out mines. The beauty of these mines are that families that work in the mining industry can come and live in communities, be part of that community and drive to work. Now, when you analyse what’s around, there’s not many large mines that they can do that. So these two are
35 very unique, I believe, in what they offer to people in the mining industry.

I might add that the properties we operate just west of Parkes here – one of them belongs to a mining company and we’ve been leasing that for over 25 years on an ongoing basis, so my involvement with mines has been quite strong. There’s
40 community meetings – or neighbourhood meetings, they call them – so that in its own gives people the right to have issues aired and talk direct to the people who are running that business, so I probably would like to allay a few fears for farmers that think they’re going to get walked over and trodden on and dusted and everything else – that I can tell you know that, even though we don’t operate our limestone mine, the
45 rules and regulations around mines are rather strict and I dare say the penalties so there is room there for those involved to have strong participation and input into the

issues that they see arising and I can guarantee that there's a lot of government regulations around that mining industry which will handle that.

5 So I don't wish to say a lot more. I think the fact that this mine hopefully will go ahead is going to be very significant in our local community. The indications are from the company that everything possible will be done out of the three shires and utilised in those three shires, so in our instance, we will see a small mine. It will go from two or three staff probably up to eight or 10 over the next 20-odd years, which will be not far out of Parkes and servicing that, let alone road transport and the like.

10 I suppose the only other comment I would make – this is interesting, and I don't think it comes from any mines – but one of the by-products of this mine is actually going to be fertiliser that farmers will be able to utilise. It is the nitrides in this fertiliser – we call it a sulphate ammonia – I think it's up in – with – figures of
15 80,000 tonnes per annum, which will give us a product to utilise in the cropping industry at a significant reduced price, not only in freight but in the fact that it has been a by-product of this mine, and is something that's commonly manufactured either overseas or in other areas of this country. So that's all I wish to say. Thank you for listening.

20 MR CARTER: Thanks, Wayne. And Barbara Newton from Parkes Shire Council.

MS B. NEWTON: Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to address this meeting. Firstly, I would like to declare an interest that I'm a shareholder in Clean
25 TeQ. I live in the township of Tullamore. Tullamore is 100 ks north of Parkes. It's 27 kilometres east of Fifield, and we sit on the boundary of Parkes and Lachlan Shire councils. It's a service town for residents in the Lachlan Shire as well as those in the Parkes Shire.

30 Since I've lived in Tullamore since 1998, there has always been the anticipation of a mine. We've had many drillers, we've had companies come through, we have two or three other companies exploring for mines at the moment in a similar area near Fifield. Tullamore is like so many small towns who are seeing a declining
35 population, yet still it has an energy to ensure its survival. And a contributing factor to that survival should be the Sunrise Mine. As a little town, you wouldn't expect us to have a very well-equipped and very well-staffed accidental emergency facilitate with aged care beds, and we have a central school to have catering for years eight to 12.

40 And one of the things that mine will offer is the fact that these children who stay on in their central school will have an opportunity for education, perhaps apprenticeships, and employment. I support the mine, expecting it to offer than employment and associated benefits to our community, but as a councillor on the Parkes Shire, I also see the shire and the regional benefits of the mine in the very
45 long term. In my support, I fully understand the questions that communities have had in regard to traffic, air quality, water and noise. I feel the review of the MOD 4

has addressed these issues, but ultimately I would like to think that Clean TeQ will be proactive in addressing the issues if they develop as a good corporate citizen.

5 Although land clearing is said to be at a minimum, and a vegetation corridor is to be planted on the southern and eastern boundaries, I feel that the greenhouse case emissions could be offset with considerable revegetation. This would help with dust, visual amenity, as well as bird corridors. Again, I support this development in the MOD 4. I have found Clean TeQ to be considerate of all objections put to them, and feel our communities will definitely benefit from the Sunrise Mine. Thank you.

10 MR CARTER: Thanks, Barbara. And Peter Bright. Sorry, that wasn't working. Thanks, Barbara. And Peter Bright.

15 MR P. BRIGHT: Morning. My name is Peter Bright. I'm a resident of Forbes and a very strong advocate of the Clean TeQ Sunrise Mine. Out here in the central west, smaller towns are slowly dying the death of a thousand cuts. Governments must stop throwing money at the problem of job loss in the country, and recognise that we need jobs and infrastructure. Money soon runs out, and basically what we have left is a nice looking town and less people to enjoy it.

20 As a Vice District Governor for the Lion's Club I've had the opportunity to travel around this area – which is basically western New South Wales – and see what is happening in our smaller towns; banks are closing, supermarkets are closing, small schools are closing all across the state, and our children are leaving to get jobs in the bigger cities.

25 This type of – sorry. This mine will produce 300 jobs in this area. That's potentially 300 families. 300 families living, working and having children, needing school, supermarkets and banks. This type of increase in population and jobs is just what is needed to keep our smaller towns viable. The Clean TeQ Sunrise Mine stands out from most mine developments. The Clean TeQ Sunrise Mine will produce an end product and not sent pelletised ore overseas to be reprocessed by us – and repurchased by us after a value adding in overseas processing plants.

35 So, in summary I would like to say just this; yes, they will use a bit of water, but 46 per cent of that will be recovered for reuse. Yes, they may make a bit of noise. Yes, the trucks may use our roads. The MOD 4 assessment supports the development, so for goodness' sake, just let's get on with it.

40 MR CARTER: Thanks, Peter. I understand Catherine Stevenson couldn't be with us today, so we will move onto Graham Quade.

45 MR G. QUADE: Thanks. My name is Graham Quade. I live at Roselands, which is – Roseland, Fifield, which is very close to the proposed Clean TeQ Sunrise Mine site, and we've got this map here just to demonstrate where a few of us live. So that's up there, just on the southern side. I've come along to speak today because of

some concerns about the draft consent conditions as proposed by the Department of Planning.

5 Firstly, I want to make it clear that I'm aware of the positive impacts a mine like the one proposed can have on a region. We've heard a lot about that already this morning, and I'm in agreement with that there will be jobs created and wages earned that will hopefully be spent in the local area. Excuse me. It's for these reasons that I'm not opposed to this mine. Roselands, where we live, has been in my family for three generations. My grandfather purchased the farm in 1960. We moved back to
10 Roselands in 2010 to raise our children, of which we have three.

Even though farming seasons, as we've heard already, are a bit of a rollercoaster, we love the fact that our kids have room to ride their motorbikes, light fires, go camping and all those things that bush kids grow up doing. It really is a fantastic way of life
15 for us and our kids out there, and I'm worried that if we don't have adequate protections in place that this may all be lost.

My first concern relates to the modelling that Clean TeQ has done with regards to emissions, dust and noise produced at the site. These models are all based on
20 weather data from Condobolin, which is the township 45 kilometres away. As a farmer, I need to be accredited to handle and apply agricultural chemicals safely and efficiently. At my reaccreditation course last year, I asked if I could just use the closest weather station, which is Condobolin, when recording temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction. The answer was a definite no, due to the fact that there are
25 too many variations over that distance.

I was also told that, legally, I had to record the data with my portable weather station in the corner of the paddock I was spraying, and not back at the sheds where I refuel, to ensure further accuracy. It seems to me that a mine, which is predicted to produce
30 dust, noise and emissions, should use more relevant local data for their models. An example of this variation happened just last week, when storm activity saw very strong winds and up to 70 millimetres of rain fall close to the mine site in two hours, while the Condobolin weather station recorded just 9.8 millimetres for the seven day
35 period.

If the weather observations aren't taken from the actual site, then in my opinion they could be just as irrelevant than if they were taken from Parkes, Forbes or anywhere else within a 100 kilometre radius. I have no confidence in the modelling because
40 the weather data is not specific to the site, which brings me to my next concern.

Once the mine is up and running, there is a possibility that we will be adversely impacted by noise, dust or emissions. If this occurs, this will impact our quality of life, property value and enjoyment of living in a rural environment. The Department of Planning has removed the voluntary acquisition condition, which I feel was a
45 necessary safety net that would allow us to sell up at a fair price and move to live somewhere we weren't negatively impacted by a mine on our doorstep. I'm very worried about this, because it could mean that we are left with a farm we can't live

on, that has decreased significantly in value because nobody else wants to live there either.

5 The mine would be great for the region, unless, of course, you're one of the near
neighbours. An analogy that springs to mind is when there's a major road
infrastructure project proposed in Sydney, such as the new M5 East Tunnel. Almost
everyone agrees that it will be good to relieve traffic congestion, getting away from
the airport quicker, etcetera. It's fantastic for the vast majority of people that live
10 nearby or travel south from the city. However, there are a few houses along the way
that will now have to put up with one of those huge ventilation stacks close by,
which will impact their quality of life, value of their properties, etcetera. I'm
imagining these few people would be very supportive of the project, just not at their
expense, and that's how I feel.

15 If Clean TeQ is so confident with its modelling and it has predicted our property isn't
affected, there should be no worries about putting the voluntary acquisition condition
back in, as it will never have to call on it again. Verbal assurances from employees
that may not be there in three years' time give me no confidence whatsoever.
20 Thanks very much for giving me the opportunity to speak to today, because it's fair
to say I'm well out of my comfort zone, and I'm sure you will take my concerns on
board. Thanks.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Graham. And Colin Quade.

25 MR C. QUADE: Good morning. My name is Colin Quade. I live at Moorlands,
which is situated just near the proposed lime quarry, just where that R is. My dad
settled in Trundle with the family at the age of nine years, moving from Berrigan,
south – southern New South Wales, and purchased the property in Moorlands in
1946, which I then purchased in 1981. We operate a mixed farming enterprise
30 comprising of grain and sheep. I have been involved in the Trundle community since
I returned home from boarding school in 1973. I'm a show committee member,
Trundle Bush Tucker Day president/committee member, Trundle Golf Club
president secretary and other committees.

35 Trundle is a small country community with plenty of good old community spirit. I
think that the mine will bring prosperity and growth to the township of Trundle and
..... and therefore I am not opposed to the mine. My first concern is that the much
increased traffic flow past Moorlands, both to the size and number of trucks. We
currently use the road to move farming machinery, such as headers, sowing and
40 spraying machines to my son's property near Fifield. With the increased traffic,
there is a greater risk of an accident. We also use the road to walk stock to the other
farm and increased volume of traffic will make it almost impossible to walk the
sheep along the road.

45 I hope this can – I hope consideration is given to these concerns. The road is
currently a quiet country road and even if it is improved, I think it is import to
impose a curfew or some limits to trucks, so trucks are not travelling on the road 24

hours a day, seven days a week. I am also concerned about impact on my property from the noise generated from the limestone quarry. I know that there will be additional noise in the area as a result of the operations at but it would be very comforting to know that if the noise exceeds what the application deemed to be acceptable levels, that my wife and I might have options. If we can live at Moorlands – if we can't live at Moorlands because of the noise is too bad, certainly no one else will want to.

I remember when the mine was first approved. There was a lot of talk about the voluntary acquisition condition in the DA and the general feeling of comfort the neighbours felt about the project was much different than it is now. I believe that voluntary acquisition conditions should be compulsory in development approvals and I certainly do not see why this community should have the one condition that it has been relying on for the best part of 20 years taken away from it. Please reinstate the voluntary acquisition conditions to give us all security for our future that we use to have. Thank you, Colin Quade.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Colin. And Des Ward.

MR D. WARD: Thank you, Commission, for listening to me. My name's Des Ward and I'm a farmer and I live on the property, Berrilee, that adjoins the mine site to the northwest. The property has been in the family for almost 100 years. My wife and I have operated our business there for the past 46 years and our son and his family are now involved in the business. I was a member of the original community consulting committee, which was formed as part of the original consent conditions. I am also a member of the current community consulting committee. If there is to be no impacts on our lives or our businesses, then we are not opposed to this project.

In fact, it has our full support, as it has the potential to bring substantial benefits to the local area. However, we have substantial, and we believe, justifiable concerns, regarding the mine excavation, cutting the aquifer and causing loss of groundwater quantity, the surface water as it passes through the mine, thus leaving downstream farmers without their normal surface flows for their dams and also the water storage dam, the emissions and the lack of local meteorological data. In addressing – it is hard to address the issues in MOD 4 without looking at the modifications that Clean TeQ have applied prior to this. The company acquired the project in early 2015, according to MOD 3.

They lodged MOD 3 in April of 2016 in which they stated on page 6 under the heading Landholders that they had provided landholders with:

Scandium 21 provided brief packages describing the modifications to landholders, including Forestry Corporation of New South Wales in April 2016. Consultation with these landholders would be ongoing.

This did not happen, at least not to myself or any landowner that I have been able to talk to about – adjoining the project. This MOD 3 had many changes, including the

consolidated consent, which no one around this project were able to comment on, as they were not informed, had no knowledge of MOD 3 being lodged. The original CCC had been disbanded prior to MOD 3 EIS appearing. The so-called contemporisation of MOD 3 removed many management plans and the land acquisition provisions. There original EIS and DA made no reference to fracturing the aquifer on the mine site; only that some seepage could occur. In my MOD 3, Clean TeQ, in response to a submission from the DPI, in reference to groundwater stated that:

10 *The open cut pits will not intersect this local groundwater table.*

In MOD 4, Clean TeQ states:

15 *The excavation of the open cut pits would result in the intersection of the groundwater in the deepest area of the open cut pit, resulting in groundwater inflows.*

The company also states they have acquired a 243 megalitre per year licence for pit dewatering. We believe that the groundwater modelling should be redone, given the conflicting statements made by Clean TeQ as the modelling was done 20 years ago and is out of date. On our property, we have three bores, from 2.8 to 4.2 kilometres from the mine site. We rely on bores for our stock water and household use. We are very concerned about any adverse effect on the quality and quantity of the water from our bores. It will have a dramatic impact on our businesses if we lose access to our water. We believe the compensatory water supply process outlined would be hugely time consuming and provides no natural justice to farmers who would have to battle with the company and government agencies.

We ask the wording of the conditions be significantly revamped to provide protection to farmers and their rights. We asked the DPE in March of this year for an independent peer review of the modelling done by the company, but they refused to address the issue. I contacted Tim Baker at DPI Water in Dubbo in April about this issue and asked for a meeting so we could look at the modelling and the possible effects. Tim said he would have to ask DPE if he could meet with us. In a follow-up conversation, Tim said he had been advised by DPE not to meet with us and could not do so. I find it extraordinary that DPI Water, a separate government entity with its own statutory responsibilities, has to dance to the tune of the DPE. It's simply unacceptable.

Following a question I put to Mike Young regarding this matter at the CCC meeting in August, a meeting was arranged for just last week, too late to have anything done except to receive vague assurances that the water management plans would address our issues. During that meeting, it was also stated that we may or may not see the water management plans as they would be the property of the company. It would be up to the DPE and Clean TeQ to decide if it would be made available to the landholders. We have little faith in the future management plans settled well after and before the – we have little faith in the future management plans settled well after

the project has approval. The devil is in the detail, and we need to see it now before any contemplation of consent being granted.

5 Garry Sunderland who lives downstream of the mine site and myself tried to advise Clean TeQ about the amount of surface water that blows through the site. In – we asked – in – we asked the – we’ve asked the DPE to assess that, but it hasn’t happened. On 30 June, we submitted a report to the DPE which local residents prepared about the storm events which have occurred in the mine and the lack of
10 Bureau of Meteorology information of that area. The report shows that the Bureau of Meteorology figures for their one in 100-year rainfall events are exceeded many times in the Fifield area, and we have local rainfall data to verify these conclusions.

A meteorological station was located at the mine site but no longer appears to be there, and Clean TeQ have not installed one even after four years of work on the
15 project. The water storage dam also causes concern as it is designed with a spillway. Any overflow from that spillway will have extreme consequences for downstream users. We have raised this with the DPE, EPA and Clean TeQ but have not received a response. Although there is a large increase in the amount of sulphuric acid
20 production going from 700,000 to 1,050,000 tonnes, emissions are still predicated to be under the acceptable limits.

We note that the Resin-In-Pulp process has never been used in nickel and cobalt processing anywhere else in the world meaning that this plant is experimental. We,
25 the locals, seek live real-time monitoring data readily available by the internet so we can see for ourselves the air quality performance. We also seek the same for groundwater, noise and dust. Monitoring stations should be placed outside the project site, especially on sites already projected by Clean TeQ to have exceedances and in the village of Fifield. If Clean TeQ is to build trust with the local community, then it needs to back its promises for provision of performance data live so we can
30 judge for ourselves whether the promises are fact or fiction.

In summary, what we’re requesting is that the land acquisition conditions be reinstalled to provide us with some means of redress if the impacts are unacceptable, that an independent peer review of the groundwater modelling at and around the
35 mine site and the surface water diversion channels, a rewording of the compensatory water supply to provide protection for farmers and their rights, that the meteorological station, schedule 3.25 of the draft consent conditions, be installed immediately so that we – that she site-specific data is available.

40 We also seek real-time monitoring data readily available via the internet so we can see for ourselves the air quality performance. Please consider how this project will affect our agricultural businesses. Surely you, the IPC, will not allow a private mining company to make substantial profits while outsourcing costs to us, the landholders and the public. The draft consent conditions do not provide landholders
45 – protect landholders. We feel that our voice is not being heard by the DPE or the company.

I press – request that you do all within your power to place the burden of proof on the miners to demonstrate that it has not caused any adverse impacts on us. It is bad enough to live this close to a mine; it is doubly costly if we have to try and move heaven and earth for justice if things impact on us adversely. If we do not get the conditions right for this project, it will impact on our lives, but it will have a far greater impact on our children, our grandchildren and future generations whole will have to live with the outcomes. Thank you.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Des. And Steve Loan from Forbes Shire Council.

MR S. LOAN: Thank you. Thank you, welcome Commissioners, to the central west, and I acknowledge the elders past and present of the traditional custodians of the land we meet in today. Let me open by saying that Forbes Shire Council is extremely supportive of this project. There has been some concern about Forbes' support for this project, but it has never been a situation that we haven't supported it. However, we do represent our community, of course, and we've got some issues or some concerns that I'm sure we are able to overcome. One of the – can I just ask a show of hands, with your indulgence, Commissioner, people from the Gerrawong – could you put your hand up? Forbes. Thank you. Condobolin, or the area of Condobolin, and Parkes.

Okay. We've got a good mix in the room here. Thank you for that. I want to start off today by telling you a story, and the story has got a great deal of relevance. Back in January we started to engage as a council with the miners, and we started on a consultation process for the voluntary planning agreement. And three of us in our suits, on our way to a meeting. We're driving along, having a look at the proposed pipeline route, and we got a flat tire. And ironically, you wouldn't believe it, it was starting to rain.

So there we are, three blokes in suits, and having to look at a – fixing a flat tire and standing there scratching our head, and trying to work out what we had to do, and a young man turned out in a ute, who helped us – very, very helpful young guy. He was a local from the Gerrawong. And the point of that story is that he asked the obvious question – what are you guys doing? And we told him; we're out here having a look at the pipeline route. What pipeline? And there started the questions. Because in the unique situation we have here with this old consent – almost 20 years old – the – it had gone off the radar. It has already been mentioned earlier today. The CCC had been disbanded, and everything had gone quiet.

So, therefore, the community start to make some inquiries – what's happening, you know, and – so council starts to field as many questions as we can. When it came time for us to lodge a submission to the Department of Planning, regardless of whether the submission was seen as an objection or whatever, but I call it a submission – it was based on the people's concerns from the bore field. So everybody in this room here, I'm pretty sure, knows that the water is coming from a bore field near the Gerrawong, and is going to travel – and I think the mayor of Lachlan mentioned earlier today it's some 80 kilometres to draw the water or

something. It's a massive pipeline, and the pipeline will be located in the road reserves at both Lachlan and Forbes Shire Council.

5 So the point to that is that there was a lot of people concerned, and this is all about
commination. I would like to say that from that first day when we started to engage
with the miners, like in all things, there was some – I won't even say resistance, but
there was some interest about the situation, because this process – and I actually
think that the Department of Planning and Environment should have had a better job
10 of this – is that there was an old consent. The miner thought that they had purchased
their way into something that was already approved, and so they could just get on
with the job.

And I would expect that, if I was in their position, probably the same thing.
15 However, the community also started to show concerns because the water that
was done – it has already been spoken about here this morning; I won't go into it –
was an old model. There had been a lot of bores that had been sunk in that area in
the meantime, and so the community were concerned. So council has got pretty
limited resources, and we do our best with what we've got, and we went into a three-
20 way relationship with the other councils to engage with consultants to help us.

But we also went to some great expense, and I actually believe that the Department
should be looking at some form of contribution out of the that come from the
miners so as to help councils to make the assessments that are required, because we
don't always have the in-house experience in those situations, because it's not every
25 day a miner comes to town proponent for significant development.

So the pipeline was something that wasn't on everybody's radar, and that sort of
woke the whole situation up. But I have to say – and I will give great credit to James
and Justine Fisher here from the mine, and Sam – thank you very much – these
30 people have listened. They might not want to listen in the first place, but they listen.
And not only do they listen but they also respond. And so I congratulate the staff of
the Clean TeQ and the management, because I actually think that the community is a
lot better informed now than what we were in the first place, and hopefully that
relationship will be ongoing, because at the end of the day you're going to be
35 corporate citizens for some decades to come should this mine be approved – and I
don't see why it wouldn't be.

But we do have some concerns. The pipeline, of. James, I'm still waiting for a plan
about where you're going to put the pipe and what it's going to look like, and – so
40 my engineers can get across that. But, moreover, the people who live along the
pipeline need to also know what's going to happen. They also need to have some
form of memorandum of understanding so that when you cut across their driveways
and you interfere with their amenities to their property, or if the pipeline in fact
bursts and causes some form of interaction with their opportunity to go and get their
45 stock at the market or they're going out, or just to get their kids to the school bus or
whatever it might be – so that must happen.

But part of the pipeline thing – and this is no secret – is that we would actually like to have an offtake installed at Ootha – not pipe to Ootha, just an offtake for rural fire service firefighting ability, because water in that area is very scarce, and I’ve been talking to some of the folks around that way, and that’s one of their biggest fears, is that when a fire does break out that they don’t have enough water to access. But it’s a bit irony here that – where I’ve been placed on the speaker’s list today, because I’m not sure that it was done on purpose, but said this morning about the restitution of the acquisition – the voluntary acquisition clause.

10 I implore the Commission to bring that clause back in, even though it was taken out in line 3, because the problem the community has got is if there is an impact – and with the greatest of respect for the folk sitting in the front row here, you might not be here when there is an impact, and your word is not in doubt today – but you might on sell the project, or you may not be here, and when somebody’s bore is affected in the bore field, then that acquisition of that property may be the only – or the last resort, and then – it’s not the same as the people who live close by the mine, because their amenity to their – their visibility is affected, but the drilldown into the water and maybe the impact of the water certainly is – to the Commission, I implore you to reinstitute that.

20 We also have a bit of concern from a council point of view about this new term that has popped up from the Department of Planning called contemporisation. Consent conditions, yes, they might be old. And the word “contemporisation” I had to look it up in the dictionary to actually find out what it actually means. Of course, it means bringing it into modern-day term. But on the same token that also, I think, should have required some community consultation on the part of Planning and Environment’s position so that the people who I represent in my community especially the people in the borefield area there would have an understanding of what’s actually going on.

30 So May Ken Keith this morning and Mayor John as well spoke about collaboration. The Department of Planning, I believe, needs to be part of that collaboration process, and they should be in the mix even though they are an independent assessment body, but they should be part of that situation. So I guess that’s all from me. I’ve got some technical stuff that I’ll hand up to the Commission when we move the council to the Commission about some of the conditions of consent. They’re nothing to be concerned about. They’re just – a lot of them are just grammatical things. But moreover, I just want to close as I started by saying that Forbes Shire Council supports the mine. We have a – we are – as a matter of fact, we are positioning Forbes to be the ideal place to live.

45 For those folk who want to work for Clean TeQ, you can come and live own what we see as the North Shore of the central west, and you can actually come and enjoy our beautiful lake, our lovely historic town, and you can go and work somewhere else, and you can work somewhere else, that’s fine. Thank you very much.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Steve. And Garry Sunderland.

MR G. SUNDERLAND: Yeah. Yeah. Good evening, everyone. Yeah. I'm not a real good public speaker, but I will do my best. My name is Garry Sunderland. I own and live on a property at Currajong Park only one and a half kilometres adjoining north of the mines with my wife, Narelle, then there's another house,
5 home, and my daughter lives in the other house on the other – on the property. I've lived at Currajong Park since 1968. That's 50 years which is a fairly long time. The farm has been operated as mixed farming possessing wool, prime lambs, grain from Burt – with my father, Burt, since 2008 since his passing. I have purchased the property and have continued with a mixed farming enterprise.

10 Farming improvements profitable production have been my major project for Currajong Park. There's an additional property, four ks away east on Melrose Road that run together. I'm involved in a small community of Fifield, Trundle and Tullamore. I am proud of my farm and have worked my whole life in doing and in
15 improving my lifestyle dimensions. I fully support the question, the amendments of the proposed conquest conditions schedule 3 environmental performance conditions. That's what Helen is going to bring up shortly, I think. Yes. And the new neighbours In our farm, if home wasn't close I wouldn't have a concern with our house. My main concerns, I feel, when the mine becomes operational, the dust and
20 noise will be greatly a concern to my family as my wife has health issues with dust and chemicals.

It will devalue the rural land from the mine project adjoining us. Admissions and fallout, what effects will it have on our health and grasses? The water flow, as Des
25 already stated, that water from the mine project flows through Currajong Park. It fills six dams. So I've run a small there. I don't know what that water is going to do if – for my animals and the dams, and it all runs on through other farms right from the So that's going to be an impact there. I hope it still comes through when they do mine. believe that the voluntary acquisition condition be simply
30 reinstated as everyone has already said because if this mine does go ahead I'm sitting right on the doorstep. My place won't be worth a cent that I've worked for all my life. Thank you for listening to me. That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

MR CARTER: Thanks. Thanks, Garry. And Helen Quade.

35 MS H. QUADE: My name is Helen Quade, and I'm a member for the Fifield community. I live at Rosemeath which currently includes the land identified in the planning documents as part of the Fifield bypass. I'm a member of the Clean TeQ Sunrise Community Consultative Committee and a spokesperson for the near-
40 neighbours to the proposed mine site at Fifield. I would like to begin by emphasising what occurred today already, and we will hear again from the near-neighbours to this project. We are not opposed to it. We are fully cognisant of the economic benefits the mine will bring to our community. Many of our neighbours and friends will benefit from employment at or relating to the site.

45 We welcome that. What we, near-neighbours, are reasonably seeking are robust and transparent consent conditions that will safeguard our environment and protect us

- from adverse impacts. Then we will have a solid platform from which to champion this project and confidently support it. But we need to be assured that if the project goes ahead it will not be at our expense. In early 2017 the DPE approved Clean TeQ's modification 3. In the main, that application sought to create a small-scale scandium production process to the original development which was the larger scale nickel-cobalt operation. But in the course of determining that application the DPE did a lot more than merely approve the staged consent – stage development process sought.
- 10 With the proponents' blessing but without any community consultation at a time when there was no CCC in operation and no public awareness that this project was being resurrected, the DPE unilaterally rewrote the entire development consent for this project. It was reduced from 67 pages to 39. Nine management plans were removed, and the demanding, stripped-liability wording of the original consent was replaced with clauses whereby exceedances and breaches were anticipated and required to be managed. All reference to the mine site haulage route which included the heavy vehicle traffic bypass around Fifield were removed. Why is it the DPE rewrite the consent in this way?
- 15
- 20 Well, they didn't do it – they didn't contemporise is to change – to acknowledge the change the existing environment over the 20 years for the project set in mothballs. They changed it to make it suit the current administrative procedures. In resurrecting this project the DPE cannot cherry-pick on behalf of the proponent only those conditions they determine modern or, as one officer suggested to me, standard wording. The development consent conditions inserted into the DA when it was granted back in 2001 took into account the concern of the local community at a time when the CCC was properly constituted and operational and may not now be unilaterally reduced especially when the proponent intends to use that consent as the basis from which to increase the intensity of its planned operations on all fronts.
- 25
- 30 Of greatest concern to the near-neighbours to this project site was the removal of the voluntary acquisition condition which was condition 11 of the original consent. That provided landholders with the security of knowing that if the mine didn't comply with the consent conditions then despite other penalties that might be imposed including fines they may also be required to purchase the affected landholders' property at a fair price, allowing that landholder the option to exit the neighbourhood, rather than being forced to remain whilst the value of their property implodes and daily wellbeing is compromised.
- 35
- 40 Clean TeQs MOD 4 application proposes more intensive and focused mining activity for the more concentrated mineral deposits at the site. Processing this higher-grade material will require more inputs and more inputs means more outputs and, potentially, greater risk of pollution. More sulphuric acid will be required to be produced for the power process and, therefore, more sulphur dioxide will be expelled from the stack. More limestone and other reagents will need to be trucked to the site and so there will be more or heavier vehicles on our roads.
- 45

Accessing surface water from the Lachlan will place more pressure on an already scarce resource. Modification 4 introduces blasting to the extraction process at the mine site. The proponent acknowledges that there will be exceedances of the tolerable limits of noise pollution at some residences. We have concerns about the atmospheric data used by the proponent in its modelling. It's sourced from the Condobolin Weather Station, more than 45 kilometres from the site, where the geography and weather are different. The air quality specialist who prepared the air quality assessment for MOD 4 EIS told us that he selected Condobolin wind data from 2015 to predict dispersions because he deemed that to be representative of wind conditions at Fifield.

Clean TeQ is yet to install a weather station at the proposed mine site to enable it to start to record the data needed to properly inform its modelling. Because of these factors, the near-neighbours do not have confidence in the modelling as to the extent to which noise, dust and emissions will affect us near-neighbours and nor, in our submission, should anyone else. The answer is so simple. If Clean TeQ and the DPE honestly believe that the modelling relating to noise, dust and emissions from the site is accurate, then there should be no hesitation in reinstating the voluntary acquisition condition. Indeed, if they are right, we will never have to refer to it again.

We near-neighbours are not looking for a golden ticket away from the lives we currently enjoy. We love where we live. We hope we will be able to continue to love it for many years to come. None of us wants to sell and move. We all accept that there may be impacts from this project which negatively impact on our amenity which do not constitute breaches of the acceptable noise and – limits of noise and dust and emissions. We will have to live with those but it's not fair to expose us to the possibility of consequences we shouldn't have to suffer and can't escape.

In its report to your Commission, the DPE recommends not reinstating the voluntary acquisition condition and, in their draft consent conditions, they have not done so. The reasons it has given for adopting this position, despite its confidence based on the proponent's modelling that no off-site impact will occur, despite repeated requests from the near-neighbours for what we see as a necessary and reasonable safety net that should never have been removed in the first place, and despite the unequivocal support for our position from the two local authorities where the physical works will be situated are, in my submission, inadequate.

In its report, at paragraph 5.5 on page 28, it states that there are a number of important reasons behind its decision and goes on to list three, which I would like to examine. The first is that, apart from very minor exceedances of the noise limits at a relatively small number of receivers, the development as modified is predicted to comply with the applicable noise blasting and air quality criteria. If we remove the adjectives from that sentence, it reads as follows: apart from exceedances of the noise limits at a number of receivers, the development as modified is predicted to comply. Put another way, the development is predicted to exceed applicable noise criteria and the proponent accepts this.

The second point relates to VLAMP. In my submission, the terms of VLAMP are grossly inadequate and unfair and require further debate and they are not gazetted and not yet binding on the DPE. Any landowner subjected to noise and/or air quality levels above the acquisition criteria should have voluntary acquisition rights, regardless of whether these are predicted before operations commence or not, otherwise where is the incentive for the proponent to get its modelling right? The terms of condition 11 of the original DA specify that the noise and/or air quality criteria must exceed the acquisition criteria before the rights set out in that clause could be invoked by a landowner. Until operations commence, we cannot know for sure the degree to which they may actually exceed the criteria or not. We near-neighbours should not be denied the rights the inclusion of the voluntary acquisition condition will give us if the modelling turns out to be inaccurate.

The third point the DPE raises to justify its refusal to reinstate the voluntary acquisition condition is that it is legally constrained in its assessment of the modification and must ensure that any additional conditions of consent are relevant to the scale and nature of the proposed modification. I would love to know why the DPE didn't feel legally constrained to limit its meddling with the conditions of consent when it assessed modification 3. The voluntary acquisition condition should not now be viewed as an additional condition of consent. It was already a condition of the consent. It was removed by the department abusing its powers under section 75W, subsection (4) of the EP&A Act and should, in fairness to the community, in the interests of natural justice and an appreciation of the new and untested nature of the technology proposed to be employed by this miner, be reinstated in its original terms.

The DPE, in its letter to the Commission, highlights the intensive consultation with community representatives in assessing this modification but, from my perspective, to a large extent, this has been a journey of a thousand brick walls. Those countless meetings, emails and telephone conversations, not to mention the hundreds of hours of time reading technical reports and trying to decipher the impact and relevance of each late into the night, have resulted in absolutely no shift in the DPEs original position regarding the voluntary acquisition condition.

I do not wonder why public trust in Australia's government, as shown by the latest Edelman Trust Barometer, has slipped yet again. The little concerns of the little voices of those of us surrounding this proposed project have been given no weight. Looking back, I cannot fathom what more we could have done to avoid the situation in which we now find ourselves, everything hinging on one last roll of the dice with you. This DPE consultation process has been exhausting, expensive and – one cannot escape the feeling – fruitless. This project has the potential to do so many good things for our community. Please hear our concerns. Please reinstate the voluntary acquisition condition to provide the local community with the opportunity to enjoy these good things without living in fear that they might be at our expense. Thank you.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Helen, and I understand that Steven Yates and Helen Yates were unable to attend, so we will move on to Karen Wade – Quade, sorry.

5 MS QUADE: Good morning. My name is Karen Quade, and I live right there, where I put my photograph of myself and my grandchildren. I live at Moorlands on the Platina-Fifield Road. And I have lived on this property for 33 years, having previously resided at Rosemeath from 1975 until 1985. That's when the other photographs are. I have lived in this district for 44 years. I am in a farming partnership with my husband, Colin, and this farm was previously owned by his
10 parents, and we purchased it in 1981. We now farm these properties with our son and daughter-in-law and sometimes assisted by their three small children. This farming includes growing cereal, crops and sheep.

15 Since I retired from teaching in 2014, I have become more involved with the farming side of our business, as well as doing volunteer work in Trundle. This work includes St Vincent de Paul, the Trundle Day Centre for the Elderly and CWA. I enjoy living on our farm. It is only 20 minutes from Trundle, 10 minutes from my son, Graham, and daughter-in-law, Helen, and three grandchildren. It's also only one hour from Forbes, where my two daughters live with three more grandchildren. All six
20 grandchildren love to visit our farm for camping, feeding sheep and going for bushwalks, as well as having campfire dinners. They also like to walk around the front paddocks listening to podcasts and they'll often go on the road, where it smoother.

25 I am not objecting to this mine. However, there are many aspects of its development that I feel uncomfortable about. I also realise this – that this mine may bring new opportunities to this area in relation to more employment prospects for local people. These people would then have the revenue to spend in the nearby towns. This way, the local businesses may be able to keep their prices lower to attract more customers,
30 so, they, the customers, will shop locally and not need to travel to the larger centres of Parkes, Forbes, Orange and Dubbo. Living so close to the Platina-Fifield Road, I am concerned about the volume of trucks that were going past – will be going past our front gate of our house – sorry. I will start that again.

35 Living so close to the Platina-Fifield Road, I am concerned about the volume of trucks that will be going past our front gate, as our house is only 800 metres from that road. This includes the additional trucks, because the use of third-party limestone being transported past our farm. The noise that will be heard in our house from these trucks is a huge concern for me. This will cause sleep disturbance for me,
40 as I am a light sleeper, and perhaps there could be a curfew from 10 pm until 6 am. I use this road almost daily to travel to Trundle for my voluntary work and I also babysit my grandchildren on a regular basis, either collecting or delivering them home.

45 With the increased volume of heavy trucks on our road, I'm concerned for my safety and that of my grandchildren, as there could be increased risk of a traffic incident with many more vehicles on this road. As it is a very straight stretch of road past our

gate, trucks will be travelling at 100 kilometres an hour as I attempt to enter or exit my farm. This road is also a school bus route for two of my grandchildren, so I have concerns for them, the driver and other students on the bus in the early morning and afternoon for the same reasons. I would very much like to see firm guidelines about the use of the local roads during school bus times and during the night.

I believe that there must be some concessions made by the mine to accommodate the reasonable needs of the existing members of our community. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my concerns about this mining project. Namely, the massive volume of traffic and hence noise pollution and the safety implications about these traffic movements – the safety implications of these traffic movements will have on me and my family farm and all those who frequent our family farm. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Karen. And Narelle Sutherland.

MS N. SUTHERLAND: Hello. My name is Narelle Sutherland. I'm a member of the Fifield community and the Clean TeQ Sunrise Community Consultative Committee. I live and own, with my husband, Gary, Kurrajong Park. There are two homes, which I live with my husband, Gary, and my second home, my daughter, Nicole and her son. Our eldest daughter and husband and two sons live and operate their farm 10 kilometres towards Tullamore. Farming is ours and in their future. I'm involved in the small communities of Trundle, Tullamore and Fifield and Helen is just placing how close we are to the mine site. Our farming enterprise consists of cropping, beef cattle, Dorset, Merinos, first-cross ewes producing lambs for the market, which obviously if you eat lamb, you probably eat some of ours.

Our home is situated on the northern boundary adjacent to the mine, less than 1.5 kilometres from the proposed waste dump site. Currajong Park has been my home for 40 years and this is where we raised our three daughters. Living on a farm is a great lifestyle and is very hard work. It has some challenges with drought and floods, low commodity prices, but the plus side, at the moment, the commodity prices are in our favour. I recognise the economic benefits that will come from this project and the employment and growth in our communities. I don't oppose the proposed mining project. What we, as closest neighbours, are seeking are honest and transparent conditions that will safeguard our environment and protect us from adverse impact for us and future generations.

When this is in place, then we can confidently support the project, but we need to be assured that if this project goes ahead, it will not be for – in our expense. We have a beautiful productive farm and we are grateful that we have clean air, quiet days and clean, silent nights. When the mine is operational, this will not be existent. I am concerned about the extent to which the noise, dust and visual pollution and emissions will affect our health and lifestyle and our farming business. During the operations of the previous mine, the dust and the mining dust would fall on our roof and wash into our rainwater tanks and this wasn't a chemical process and a much smaller operation.

5 The noise from the dozers and the processing could be heard day and night. If Clean TeQ and the Department of Planning honestly guarantee that the modelling relating to the noise and the emissions from the site is accurate, then there should be no question of reinstating the voluntary acquisition condition. My concern for the environmental impact, erosion, contamination of soil, groundwater and our surface water, which will flow across our place. Surface water coming through is of great concern when there is a large amount of rain. Will the channelling hold it? Please refer to Des Ward's report. We rely on the water that comes from the beginning of the watershed flowing from the south through the mine site.

10 This fills six dams on our property. No water, no stock, no income for us. The value of our properties, which is our superannuation, the legacy to our children and grandchildren, will drop 25 to 60 per cent of its value. I fully support the request amendments of the proposed consent conditions, schedule 3, Environmental
15 Performance Conditions, that Helen Quade submitted on behalf of Fifield land neighbours. I feel the bypass is a must for the safety of the normal traffic and the residents of Fifield. And there has been numerous accidents in the village, without the additional large trucks and vehicles. I love where we live and our lifestyle.

20 We all hope that we will be able to continue to love it in many more years to come. None of us want to sell or move. We all accept that there may be impacts from this project with negative impact on our lifestyle, which do not constitute breaches of acceptable limits of noise and dust emissions. We will have to consider our options, but what is not fair is to expose us to consequences we shouldn't have to suffer and
25 can't escape. Please read and support the request for the amendments for the proposal conditions. I would like to be confident that if this project is given the green light, it won't be for the detriment, emotional, financial, fiscal. I would like some security that our lives will be unjustly impacted. I would like to thank you for listening to my concerns and, at the end of the day, this is our home. Thank you.

30 MR CARTER: Thanks, Narelle. And Sandra Ward?

MS S. WARD: I'm sorry, but I've never used one of these before. Can you hear
35 me? Is that better? My name is Sandra Ward. I'm a member of the Fifield community. I'm a near neighbour of the proposed mine and processing plant. My property adjoins the project on the north side of the Melrose Plans Road, as you can see there. My husband's family have lived in the Fifield area for over 95 years. I have lived there for 46. My son, daughter-in-law and their children are continuing the tradition of farming on the property. We love where we live, and we love the
40 lifestyle that we have. I'm not opposed to the project. I recognise the benefits that can come from this project and the flow-on benefits for the greater community.

I only seek to have reasonable and transparent consent conditions that will protect us
45 as near neighbours, protect the wider community and the environment from adverse impacts. I'm concerned about the emissions from the chemical processing plant. My understanding is the Clean TeQ in MOD 4 proposes more intensive mining activity to target more concentrated mineral deposits. Processing this high grade of raw

material will require more input to the extraction process, thus more outputs and more emissions.

5 An increase of sulphuric acid used by 50 per cent will require and – will be required, and therefore more sulphur dioxide will be emitted from the 80 metre high stack. The response to this question in the MOD 4 submission was:

Overall there would be less emissions.

10 I really don't understand that. With more impacts to the extraction process, more limestone and reagents will be required to neutralise the tailings. More transport will be on the roads, and through Fifield if the bypass is not used. More dust, more noise. As Helen has already said, the company has acknowledged that there will be exceedances to the noise levels at certain residences:

15 *Apart from very minor exceedances of noise limits at a relatively small number of receivers, the development, as modified, is predicted to comply.*

20 I would ask what is minor, what is relatively small, and how many is too many, and should there be any exceedances at all allowed. What happens if the other two miners – Australian Mines, who is – who are preparing their at the moment or Patina, who have an exploration license, come on board with their projects? Are there noise levels to be added to the exceedances? Are the cumulative effects being acknowledged? The atmospheric data used by Clean TeQ in its modelling was from 25 the weather station at Condobolin, using data for one year – and that year was 2015. I have travelled to Condobolin from my property, Berrilee, for 46 years, and I can assure you that the weather at Condobolin and the project site vary enormously.

30 A weather station on the site would give a more accurate picture of the conditions. Maybe then the modelling maps of emission from the original DA in 2011 and this MOD 4 might look a little bit more alike. I do not have any confidence in the modelling presented by the company for the noise, dust or emissions. Without accurate atmospheric data from the site to input into the modelling, we will not know the real effects of the dust, noise, or the SO2 emissions from the stack until the mine 35 is up and running.

Please put protections for the worst-case scenario into the consent conditions, please. I would love for everything to be as clean and wonderful as the company says it will be. That is what we all want. If the company and the Department of Planning is so 40 sure that there will be so few negative impacts for us, the near neighbours, then please put back this – please back your assertions with real-time monitoring that is acceptable to all.

45 I'm sure you're aware that water is a huge issue for all in our community. Without it, our business would not exist. As stated by the company, there is a limited supply of groundwater in the area, and our groundwater is in the Bogan-Macquarie Catchment, it's not in the Lachlan. Our property relies on groundwater bores for

stocked and domestic waters. Dams do not hold in our country as the ground is porous.

5 We are very conservative in our use of ground water. Our water is on solar pumps and piped to tanks and troughs. Originally, the mine pit was to reach a depth of 55 metres and was strongly emphasised – and it was strongly emphasised that the pit would not fracture the aquafer, thus no impact on our supply. The mine pit is now to the extended to a maximum depth of 60 metres, and will fracture to aquafer – page 84, point 4.7.3. The company have obtained a 243 mega litre a year licence to dewater the mine pit.

10 I'm hoping this does not adversely affect our bores, but if the worst case scenario should happen and we are left without stock water, I consider the process that we would be put through for compensatory water inadequate to meet the gravity of the situation. The compensatory water supply condition 28 is very loose in its wording, and does not give me any confidence at all for repatriation of our supply. I can only see long term that there will be conflict and pain in the process if we ever have to go that way.

15 I would ask that the compensatory water supply condition be given greater clarity and teeth, and we be afforded greater protection. I would like the voluntary land acquisition clause that was originally in the consent to be reinstated. It magically disappeared without our knowledge or consultation. The original consent is held up as a license to operate by the company, yet one of the main items that we've all – that all the near neighbours want retained has been removed by stealth without knowledge or consultation. I ask for the original clause to be reinstated in its original terms.

20 I live in a community that cares and supports each other through good times and bad. I would love to have a positive relationship with our new near neighbours, Clean TeQ. To give Clean TeQ a social licence to operate, I need to be confident that if this project goes ahead it will not be to our detriment, emotionally, physically or financially. Please give us some certainty that our lives will not be unjustly impacted. Thank you.

35 MR CARTER: Thanks Sandra. And Gregory Laing.

MR G. LAING: Excuse me. Good morning. My name is Greg Laing, and I live at Rose Hill, Tullamore. My wife, Carmel, and I have two children.

40 MR: Can't hear.

MR LAING: Sorry, thought it was on. Good morning. My name is Greg Laing, and I live at Rose Hill, Tullamore. My wife, Carmel, and I have two children; Sophie, 10, and Tristan, eight. We've lived at Rose Hill since 2009. I grew up on the family farm just down the road which my grandfather obtained in a ballot in 1930. My father, Ian, was born on the property and has been there all his 78 years.

Together with my brother, Warwick, we run a mixed farming enterprise of sheep, crops and cattle. I enjoy living and working in this community, and have many close friends through both farming and sporting organisations.

5 My wife is a teacher at the local school, and we are actively involved in every aspect of the Tullamore Fifield community. I realise the potential for the mine to bring economic benefits to some areas of our community. However, I do have concerns that I would like to raise now. My property is directly across the road from the proposed stack site, and my house is only just under three kilometres northeast as the
10 crow flies. I will go and see the stack if I look out my daughter's window.

I am concerned about the noise – both noise and emissions, especially with a young and active family who spend most of their days riding bikes, climbing trees, swimming and playing outdoors. The noise pollution, according to the information
15 gained from Condobolin some 50 kilometres away, comes within a few hundred metres of our house. It is impossible to predict such levels using figures from so far away. We have asked for monitoring to be set up on the property for both noise and emissions, and have been discarded with the same repetitive from Clean TeQ, representatives saying “your house does not fall in the affected zone”.

20 The health and wellbeing of my young family is my ultimate priority, and I will do whatever I can to ensure their safety. By refusing to place monitoring systems around my family home, Clean TeQ are ultimately putting my family's health in danger, and without this system in place there is no guarantee that our family farm
25 will be there in the future.

On top of monitoring system, my wife and I's biggest concern is there is no voluntary acquisition in place, and our land value will ultimately fall dramatically once the mine is up and running. Our livelihood will be taken away from us if the
30 noise – and even worse, the emissions from the stack – are at dangerous levels. I implore you to make the right decision for my family and the surrounding families who have farmed the area for generations. A voluntary acquisition is essential. Thank you for your time.

35 MR CARTER: Thanks, Gregory. And Tracie Robertson.

MS T. ROBERTSON: Members of the Commission and ladies and gentlemen, my name is Tracie Robertson and I am the principal of Ray White Real Estate in Parkes, Forbes and Condobolin. I'm also the vice-president of the Parkes Chamber of
40 Commerce, a local Rotarian, a founding member of the Condobolin Chamber of Commerce, and also a property owner in all three towns, and was a founding member of the Forbes Independent Business Group over there in the north shore, as we now will refer to it, I'm sure.

45 I come today to speak in support of getting this modification approval through as quickly as possible. I would like it to be known that there is a large group of business owners in Condobolin that were unable to leave their businesses for a day to

attend today's meeting but are no less passionate about getting this modification approved quickly so that Sunrise Mine can begin. Last week, we submitted an application for a large group of Condobolin business owners to appear today to speak in support of this project moving forward via video link but the application was declined due to unavailability of technology.

When I sat down to think about what to say today, I wondered what the shires of Parkes, Forbes and Lachlan would look like now if we had not successfully worked through the objections and concerns that surrounded the original Northparkes Mine and Lake Cowal Mine applications – what would our three shires look like now if we did not have Northparkes Mine or Lake Cowal Gold Mine, and I must say that the thought is sobering – and provide much motivation to do all things possible to help get this modification application approved as soon as possible.

As nearby mines work through their predicted lifespans, I have been hoping that I am well and truly retired before any of them reach their end and I could not bear the thought of thinking about the future of my young staff in Parkes and Forbes and Condobolin. When Clean TeQs original approval came through, I hoped that that was no longer a concern for me and my staff. Hearing information such as “the area offering the largest deposit outside of the Congo” and the staff numbers and mine life projections has breathed life into small business in these three shires and has been doing so for some time now based on speculation.

In my opinion, there's a long list of benefits to the three shires of Forbes, Lachlan and Parkes and I believe it necessary to speak about the positive effects Clean TeQs Sunrise Project is already having on our property values and, as a medium enterprise owner employing 23 people, I can also speak about employment opportunities for locals. My business sells residential and rural property and brokers frequent water trading on the Lachlan. We manage almost 1000 rental properties across the three shires and, in my professional opinion related to the real estate market in this region, consumer sentiment is at an all-time high.

Valuers are working to keep up with the beginnings of increasing property values and agents are scrambling to keep up with investor inquiry, which is a really good problem for us. One brand new position has already been created within my own business, which, for the first time in its 30-year history, now has 23 staff. I've been selling real estate for 22 years in this region and I have not seen any evidence of any negative effect on property values due to the proximity of Northparkes Mine. In fact, the opposite has occurred. Values increase with demand and history has told us that mining operations prove to increase demand.

We are excited to say that many negatively-g geared properties that we have managed for years are now approaching neutral and positive territory and my team are seeking and working with property developers to expand the net pool of available rental properties in all three areas, which means construction, however none are willing to proceed until formal approval is granted. In speculating, we are not only working on

increasing our net pool of rental properties but we are also recommending to our landlords that they improve their properties where possible.

5 As income and gearing changes, our investors are facing a new idea, which is
reinvesting income to improve property quality rather than using it all to pay
mortgage and rates, as is required when properties are neutrally or negatively geared.
So there are so many benefits for unrelated industry in the area as well. So many
stand to gain and the future of the real estate market in the three affected shires is
10 bright with Clean TeQ. We are gripped by terrible drought conditions but still we
are positive and we can thank the thought of Clean TeQ Sunrise Mine going ahead
for much of that positive sentiment that we are now enjoying in our market. We
need this mine to go ahead and we need it to happen soon.

15 The outcomes in the Commission's report seem to have well addressed the
objections, so let's dispense with the holdups. We are satisfied that Clean TeQ have
addressed the objections raised as set out in pages 4 and 5 of the modification
assessment document. I'm very impressed with the way that Clean TeQ staff have
not only integrated in this community but they've gone further than that. They've
embraced this community and fully immersed themselves in community life and I
20 feel that they are here for the long haul and I trust and believe that they've got it.
They've got it right.

In conclusion, there is a buzz about the region about job opportunities for locals and
the property market. In my opinion, it seems our past is in agriculture and our future
25 is in industrial diversity, which includes agriculture, mining, rail and associated
industry, and I implore the Commission to approve MOD 4 as quickly as possible
and move forward with Clean TeQ Sunrise's project. Thank you for the opportunity
to be heard.

30 MR CARTER: Thanks, Tracie. After the next speaker, we will break for 30
minutes, so that people can grab a cuppa or some lunch and we will reconvene pretty
sharply after that 30 minutes. So Warwick Laing. We will get a photo of the map
before it goes too, if possible.

35 MR W. LAING: Good morning. My name - - -

MR CARTER: Sorry, yes.

40 MR LAING: Good morning. My name is Warwick Laing. I have lived in Eton
Vale, Condoblin since 2001. This property is 25ks from Condobolin on the
Springvale Road. I was born and raised on Bon Accord, which is adjacent to the
mine, and I – my elderly parents still live in this house and my father has lived and
worked here for his entire 79 years. We still can't get rid of him. After taking up an
offer to complete some tertiary agricultural studies, I began farming fulltime in 1999.
45 My farming partnership with my brother, Greg, who you've just heard from, and our
families and we have several properties in proximity to the mine, which include Bon
Accord and Rose Hill. We are mixed farmers who have expanded in the area as it's

close to our existing properties and we need to increase the scale of our operations to remain sustainable. Part of this involved the opportunity of leasing the sites to the mine site over the last 10 years and we have been grateful for that opportunity. That lease is now finished with the developments at the mine.

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The reason I am here today is that I have some serious concerns with some aspects of the mine. These include road safety issues that come with increased traffic, particularly trucks, and the increased sulphur dioxide emissions involved with Modification 4. I also have limited confidence in the modelling that Clean TeQ have used to estimate the effects of noise and emissions and the near neighbours. Clean TeQ has used weather data from the town of Condobolin in its modelling of expected atmospheric conditions. I live between Condobolin and the proposed mine site and in my nearly 20 years covering this trip at all hours of the day and night, I can say that the conditions are often not even remotely similar.

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On many occasions, I have risen in the middle of the night to travel to work to complete crop spraying. Despite leaving in near perfect conditions, I have arrived to conditions that are so windy or frosty that I have been unable to spray and have had to head home. Often, I have found the wind direction puts me upwind of a neighbour's crop and I have had to not proceed through caution. This is on the contrary to the weather forecasts made using the available data from Condobolin. You live by the weather as a farmer and working outdoors in the environment in all kinds of conditions gives you an appreciation for its variability. It's foolish to rely on predictions and forecasts and worse still to try and understand why it does what it does. I cannot see how data from a weather station 45 kilometres away can be accurately extrapolated to represent the conditions of the proposed mine site.

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This is certainly not the case in my experience and is causing me great concern about the accuracy of the impacts of mine emissions, considering I have so much to lose. I am not personally opposed to the mine. I do realise that the increased dust, noise, traffic and emissions will negatively impact me, but if they remain within legislative limits, then it is something that I or my children will have to deal with. If the proposed benefits play out, then it should be a great boost for the local area. Many friends stand to gain well paid employment. There should be money for community groups and increased population.

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Finally, my most significant concern relates to the removal of the voluntary acquisition condition included in the original consent, which provides a safeguard for adversely impacted neighbours. I am very concerned that I and my near neighbours will have to bear the brunt of the negatives with no way out if conditions become unliveable. No one in their right mind would want to buy a property next to a mine that is exceeding its noise and emissions limits. No one in their right mind would want to remain living and working there either. We face significant risk of the erosion of the value of an asset that has been built over generations.

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If the proponents are so sure of their emissions modelling, then why is the voluntary acquisition condition not reinstated? I love farming in this area and have no

intention of going anywhere, but if it becomes unbearable, then a voluntary acquisition would sure help me sleep at night. What if they have got it wrong? All I'm asking is for some kind of guarantee that if they have, then we can get out and try and move somewhere else. If everything will be fine, as we are repeatedly told, then it will be – then reinstate the condition and no one has anything to worry about. A crystal clear and binding framework is required that – so that if breaches occur, there is a process followed that protects our rights.

I cannot comprehend having the money nor the mental resilience to take on a mining company simply to try and prove an outcome that was never meant to occur in the first place. This road to here has already been massively time consuming and not without cost. Long may the mine benefit the people of – in our district, but don't leave the risks in the hands of the few. Thank you.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Warwick. So we will have a 30 minute break now and reconvene at 12.30. I will just make one brief comment that the Commission has tried very hard not to be seen to be partisan at all, so please don't think that we're being rude or aloof, but we will try not to engage with any of you over that period, so thank you.

RECORDING SUSPENDED

[12.06 pm]

RECORDING RESUMED

[12.37 pm]

MR CARTER: All right. We might get underway again. So if everyone can grab a chair. And is Gregor Sammut-Paul available?

MR G. SAMMUT-PAUL: Thank you, Commissioners, for the opportunity to speak. My name is Gregor Sammut-Paul. My family own – my family and I own and run Retail Business Supplies, a retail store servicing Parkes, Forbes, Manildra, Peak Hill, the smaller villages and out to Cordova, predominately supplying to other businesses, as well as the wider community. I believe Clean TeQ Sunrise is a fantastic opportunity for Parkes Shire and entire Central West. As a business based in Parkes, we have already felt the flow on effects and benefits; we have a relationship with Clean TeQ providing furniture and stationery for their Parkes and Cordova offices.

We look forward to our continued collaboration as the operation expands. During the current drought, the income from non-traditional sources has been most welcome. Clean TeQ's regular and on time payments helped with ours and our suppliers' cash flow. I believe we are not alone in seeing the tremendous benefits the mine will have for other businesses and industries in the area. I believe the economic and employment benefits will be quite significant. Clean TeQ have shown a commitment to the region. Their initial support of local businesses and community events for

a long and beneficial relationship with ours and other local businesses. I support the mine and modification 4 and look forward to the commencement and construction in the not too distant future. Thank you.

5 MR CARTER: Thanks, Gregor. And Laura O'Shannessy.

MS L. O'SHANNESSEY: My name is Laura O'Shannessy. I hold a senior management position at Total Workwear here in Parkes and Orange. I am speaking today in support of Clean TeQ MOD 4 application. As a local store and regional
10 retailer of workwear and PPE products, I see a huge benefit and potential future business for Parkes and surrounding centres. I appreciate what a mine this size can bring to our region, both directly and indirectly. The presence of such a mine will attract more jobs to our areas, as well as economic growth through local supply. As a small business, we are excited at the prospect of having another mine in our area,
15 as without the presence of a mine in our shire, many businesses in Parkes wouldn't exist. This is evident with North Parkes Mine. I encourage the IPC to grant the MOD 4 application and look forward to the growth this project can bring to the local and regional economy. Thank you.

20 MR CARTER: Thanks, Laura. And Dan Herbert.

MR D. HERBERT: Thank you, Mr Chairman, this afternoon for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Dan Herbert and I'm Slimbridge-Bedgerebong. And I'm about five ks from the borefields. My family has farmed the
25 area for over 100 years, and we're a family partnership growing cereal crops and producing wool and fat lambs and have a cattle and a beef enterprise. We have irrigated from the Lachlan River and we depend on the groundwater for our stock and domestic wellbeing for our pastoral pursuits. While I am not opposed to the mine, I recognise the possible benefits, my main concern is in the lowering of the
30 water table due to Clean TeQ's water attracting – extraction.

Personally, I have lost assets to four stock and domestic bores over the period – over the years and we have had to redrill and equip the bores to a great cost to ensure supply. This demonstrates how fragile our water supply are. As far as we know,
35 there has been on – no carbon dating on the water that Clean TeQ has obtained or is about to extract. Carbon dating gives a good indication of the age and the recharge capability of the aquifer. There has been no dissemination of the information about Clean TeQ's with regards to the borefields made available to its – any way to our concern. I think the monitoring should be and include real-time data available to
40 us in the surrounding area.

In addition, any compensatory supply from Clean TeQ's needs to be formulated in conjunction with farmers. And because an event that would result, compensation would be – would have to be reached in a critical, timely manner. Losing access to
45 my stock and domestic water would be hugely detrimental to my business and having already experienced this, you can imagine my concern. Finally, under the current water sharing plan, in my opinion, Clean TeQ should investigate arranging a

percentage of its – percentage of the environmental flow, thereby mitigating groundwater table and increasing their surface usage. Thank you.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Dan. And Darren Cowan.

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MR D. COWAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Darren Cowan. I've got a small welding engineering shop in Forbes. Carly and I established Darren Cowan Mobile Welding in 2005. We've employed eight to 12 people full time ever since. We've assisted around 12 apprentices complete their trades. 50 per cent of our apprentices were from the land and have since returned back to the farms to help their families. Having a trade behind them helps relieve the pressure of our unpredictable climate which will – which we have all experienced being floods and droughts, etcetera. Family is the reason we work, and having the ability to provide for our families gives Carly and I a buzz.

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The main reason we go through the struggles of training apprentices and tradespeople is so they can help provide for their families. Businesses like ours need larger companies like Clean TeQ to help their – sorry, to help us keep our employees and our families employed. I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one who has lost sons or daughters to the larger cities so they can excel in their chosen fields. Forbes and Parkes, Condo, and surrounding areas need jobs. We can – we can provide jobs for our kids. We may be able to keep them close which I know would be nice for me at least. The opportunity to have Clean TeQ so close excites me and the local servos, bakeries, hair salons, motels, tyre shops, mechanics shops, the supermarkets, housing, schools, TAFE, football, netball, soccer teams, and the community events that will gain support not to mention the weld and engineering shops.

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Clean TeQ would employ around 300 people with a large percentage of their salaries and wages going into our communities and businesses. I generally want to see the project get off the ground and honestly think Clean TeQ will be a major contributor to our families and communities for years to come. Thanks.

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MR CARTER: Thanks, Darren. And Nana Peters from the Concerned Borefield Residents Alliance.

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MS N. PETERS: Can you hear me? No. Testing. Good afternoon. My name is Nana Peters. I am here today on behalf of an incorporated group of 32 farming families who live and farm in the vicinity of the proposed borefields for this project. We are not opposed to this project, but to be clear we do have major concerns with regard to Clean TeQ's proposed water take from the borefields. The proposed project before you to day is, we submit, more than just a minor modification to an approved project to allow surface water take from the Lachlan River. We submit that this is, in essence, a totally new project. To explain this, the Sunrise Mine was granted consent approval in 2001.

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The EIS work including a description of the existing environment and an assessment of the likely impact was done even earlier some 20 years ago. The project has, in

fact, never materialised. Indeed, it has been mothballed. That is what makes this situation incredibly unique. And the world has moved on in the last 20 years. And in zone 5 of the Lachlan catchment, for example, there are now approximately 60 new bores of which around 13 are irrigation bores. Farmers did not just sit around
5 waiting for this project to perhaps materialise, but it gone on with the business of farming, food production and developing their farms. One of the dramatic changes to the existing environment now that far more water – far more groundwater is being used, more than – since more than 20 year ago and coupled with climate change and extended dry periods, the baseline environment has changed enormously.

10 Commissioners, we earnestly submit that new water impact modelling should be carried out prior to any approval of MOD 4. We would refer you to the water modelling for the original EIS in 2000. That work was deemed flawed and inadequate by the independent hydrogeologist, Peter Dundon. He was engaged by
15 DPE to review the model. The DPE should be asked to explain why it ignored Mr Dundon’s findings and approved the project in 2001. Commissioners, because the project has never materialised and because the baseline environment is dramatically different to that of 20 years ago, the water modelling considered inadequate at the time should be considered out of date and must be brought up to 2018 standards.

20 We’re not opposed to this project. We recognise the benefits that may flow from such an industry. However, what we as near-neighbours are seeking is basically five points. Number 1, a contemporising of the groundwater model and let’s see what it reveals. Number 2, determining if it is still consentable and, if so, then the consent
25 conditions must protect us from adverse impacts from the water take by the mine. Number 3, if adverse impacts are caused by mine water take that there will be robust transparent conditions requiring the miner to properly cease and desist pumping and fix and compensate us for damage.

30 Number 4, consent conditions must be placed – must place the burden of proof of impact on the miner to prove that they have not caused harm rather than placing the unfair burden on the farmer to convince the miner, DEP and DPI Water of any damage. Number 5, we seek an absolute assurance that if this project goes ahead it
35 will not be at our expense. When this project was taken out of mothballs, we residents at the borefield site were not approached, we were not informed. Indeed, until we attended a meeting at the Department of Planning at Trundle we were not on the radar screen at all. The proponent, however, was stating that there were no community concerns around the borefields. Our information as an incorporated group of 32 members would clearly suggest otherwise.

40 Recently, Clean TeQ carried out a bore census as Sam Riggall mentioned earlier. He was saying it was a significant bore census. We say it was basic at best. They collected the bore locations, standing water levels and EC readings. No yield. Recently, data loggers have been installed by Clean TeQ on their bores. We say this
45 is too little too late with regard to that gathering. In essence, this project is about to extract a significant amount of groundwater based on a doubtful model prepared

inadequately 20 years ago. Currently, the miners have licensed to take 3154 megs per annum. This is approximately 10 megs per day every day for the life of the mine.

5 Now, existing irrigation bores in zone 5, most of them are rated at 10 megs a day and less. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a bore yielding 10 megs a day will drop after a few days pumping, this is farmers' own anecdotal evidence, possibly by up to a meg an a half a day, and they have to take account for this while irrigating. Irrigators pump for two to three weeks and then stop allowing the bores to recover. And at this particular dry time groundwater extraction is at a high. Anecdotal
10 evidence is pointing to longer recovery time and a lowering already of the standing water levels. We contend that Clean TeQ's water table both interfere with farmers' new and old bores and lower standing water levels.

15 Clean TeQ must have contingency plans to scale back operations and development in the event of water shortage as do we as farmers, and not do as other mines seem to do and ramp up extraction when other suppliers are dwindling. Our concerns with the consent conditions are that there are too subjective. They're open to broad interpretation, and the phrases such as adverse impacts and compensatory supply
20 seem to confer confidence, but who's judging the adverse impacts, and how in the real world would a compensatory supply work. The process outlined is time consuming, and based on other mine sites' examples would unlikely to be resolved in a timely enough manner. The onus of proof should be on the proponent to prove that its activities have not caused an adverse impact.

25 So today we are seeking clear and transparent ongoing monitoring that includes real-time data available to farmers on the internet in the same way that relevant information is available now. We are also seeking to have a say in the groundwater management plan specifically the setting of trigger levels to investigate any potential negative impacts. In addition, there should be collaboration with farmers and a plan
30 to respond to exceedance and mitigate adverse impact. The current position of government departments in Clean TeQ that they intend to manage adverse impacts before they happen is ridiculously optimistic and unbelievable in the real world. Independent Planning Commission, please show us by your actions that a private mining company profits will not be at the expense of landholders, local businesses
35 and the public. Thank you for you time today.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Nana. And Jeremy Voss.

40 MR J. VOSS: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'm here today as the representative of Condobolin-based company Progress Printing, and I would like to express my support, as many of you have, for Clean TeQ MOD 4 to build and operate the mine in the area near Fifield. Progress Printing – I'm employed by – I employ 18 staff. We supply a range of print collateral to businesses all around
45 Australia but predominantly those in rural and regional areas. So a lot of experience in travelling through rural and regional Australia. As you can imagine, a lot of clients say we're cultural based or focused and reliant to some extent on the land.

During what's known as the Millennium Drought, I can unequivocally say that it was the mining sector that kept our business going. When agriculture was down, the mining sector was up; hence, I'm a very passionate supporter of diversifying industry in rural and regional areas. We've worked closely with Clean TeQ since
5 mid-2017, and I have seen firsthand the positive impact they have had on the town of Condobolin. And they opened up and renovated an old disused building in the main street. Their arrival a few months ago – after their arrival a few months ago, they Commissioned Progress Printing to print and install some window signage.

10 Since then, this has resulted in us securing work from two other local businesses to improve their shopfronts. So we've already seen, you know, flow-on effects. We have worked closely with mines in Parkes, Northparkes Mine, West Wyalong Evolution Mining and the mines in Cobar, and we would like to point out these mines to local landholders. They seem to have a very amicable relationship with
15 surrounding landholders. Hopefully, it allays your fears. Our town will be better off with such a significant employer on our doorstep. I don't have my head in the sand about possible negative impacts of mining. I know there are concerns around water and social impacts, but I'm convinced that Clean TeQ will work within state or local regulatory boundaries and continue to consult local community opinion.

20 This mine will cause considerable prosperity not only to owners and shareholders but also to employees and residents in our area. I urge all those involved to proceed immediately with consent for this application, and I would like to also put it to the board of Clean TeQ to engage constructively with some of the few dissenting voices
25 that we've heard today. I think their concerns are real and valid, and if they're met in a voluntary amicable neighbourly way, I'm sure this mine will go ahead for the prosperity of the whole region.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Jeremy. Tim Cooke.

30 MR T. COOKE: G'day. My name is Time Cooke. I'm coming here today as a miner. Been a miner for about 13 years now, mainly on processing. I wanted to say specifically to the Clean TeQ guys the good job they've done to get the information out on the MOD 4. Seen that a fair bit around the district, and it has been really
35 good. I've got – so you don't see, in my experience – you don't see a lot of miners that have such a positive impact on the environment. Like, they're going to be producing the nickel and cobalt sulphite for the batteries, for the renewable energies that are going to come on board. They're going to need batteries for the future – and the scandium that they're taking a big leap in – it's not really a market at the
40 moment, but it will be used in the transport industry for the – making the lighter rail works.

A lot of talk about the jobs – 300 jobs they're going to be producing. I'm currently
45 at Tomingley, at the gold mine there. We're in the process of losing about 100 people – 30 of my workers. It's good to see that we've had a short mine life and these guys have got 25 plus years, and it's good to see a mine coming online that's going to have the – to be able to move into and stay there for a long time. This is the

second time that I've been in a mine that's closing down, and you don't see a lot of them that have a 25 years plus – also, to just talk about the farmers as well, in working at Tomingley, in the last few years we've seen a lot of farmers coming in that have been struggling with the drought and so on coming off the land.

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This is going to be another place for them to get them opportunities for employment, so it's good to see that. The injection into community – like I said, worked in community, I worked North Parkes and see what they've done for Parkes. It's good to see the amount of money that gets into the sporting organisations and so forth, and that's what Clean TeQ have been talking about. And specifically about the MOD 4, it's good to see that the guys are looking at the water – using less water with their recycled water, and working with my father's company, there – we do water bores.

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Looking at the – using the river water so that they don't lower the aquifer to get the other water in – that's good to see. Using the CCD – using the resident pulp instead of the CCD, that will be using less power, and the additional steam power to produce additional power coming from the steam – from the extra inputs that they've put in. I think that the MOD 4 is going to be a benefit to this project specifically, without going into the project completely, and I hope that this goes ahead.

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MR CARTER: Thanks, Tim. Vicki Hanlon.

MS V. HANLON: I'm like everyone else, I thought it would be easy. My name is Vicki Hanlon, and I live in Condobolin. I wanted to state that I support the Clean – sorry, I meant to state to the Commissioner and members of the panel and community – I wish to state that I support the Clean TeQ Sunrise MOD 4 and would like it to be approved by the panel. Firstly, from a personal perspective, I was brought up on a farm and then lived in rural communities for many years, so I can understand the – and empathise with those who are on farms close to the proposed mine. But I've also spent the last 35 years living in communities that have successfully had mining coexist alongside farming.

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I would like to state the positive effects that I have experienced when mining was part of the community for the region where I lived. I speak from the experience of coming to a town to do mining as my husband was employed by the mining companies. Great benefits were given to our children, and the experience we gained by going into a community and becoming part of the social fabric.

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More families and personnel came to town, which is especially beneficial to small, rural communities that are under increasing stress due to the climatic conditions, lack of employment opportunities, and youth leaving school and then the area. With more people, the infrastructure was upgraded to meet the demand. This was also beneficial after the mine closed local sport and classing facilities were upgraded with the help of the Gerrowang Bangkok Company and company, and in fact used tennis courts for field.

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5 So school students also benefit from students from outside the area coming in with new experiences. The local children then saw something tangible to work for as they considered their options of gaining employment at the mine, undertaking training and going to university or obtaining a good degree that would lead to employment in mining as a possible option for them.

10 Some close neighbours to the mines gained employment or engaged as contractors to the mines, thus supplemented their income. The economic benefits were there for all to see as the businesses benefit – if not directly, but from the flow-on effect. Business opportunities were created. Local councils and authorities worked together with the mines to ensure that the communities were not at risk. With the checks and balances in place from both state government bodies and regulators, I believe that in conjunction with the various Clean TeQ environmental management plans and continued community engagement and consultation that the project will be of significant benefit to all the communities and regions.

20 I should declare that that my husband is employed from Clean TeQ, but these are my own personal views. From the perspective of the joint owner of Condobolin News Agency, I and many other business owners in Condobolin, including Belinda Shoes, RJS Living Appliances, Happy Days, E&L Smash Repairs, Café Ronno Quality Meats and Central West Torrens Service, who could not be here today to speak, and many others who are submitting witness statements strongly support the Clean TeQ Sunrise MOD for approval and would welcome the opportunity to be part of the growth of the economy at Condobolin in the region with a project the size of Clean TeQ.

30 We recognise that there would be an opportunity for Condobolin to upgrade existing infrastructure to meet the demands of more business which would also benefit the mining community for many years to come. The opportunity exists for businesses to put themselves forward to become suppliers to the mine, thus increasing their viability and longevity. There will be many opportunities for economic and employment growth for Condobolin with an estimated 1000 jobs over construction and 300 when in operation, having a significant direct and indirect flow-on effect.

35 The Lachlan Shire and their rate payers along in Parkes and Forbes Shires would benefit greatly from the \$18.3 million from the voluntary planning agreement that is, in principle, in place with Clean TeQ. Roads would be upgraded, investments in education, training and community development programs that will come to our region if the project is to proceed. The project will provide welcome diversification to the region's economy, particularly as agriculture becomes uncertain and employs less people.

45 The opening of the mine would add value and demand to the housing real estate market in Condobolin, Parkes, Forbes and villages. As I've stated at the beginning, I'm a supporter for Clean TeQ Sunrise MOD 4 plan being passed and look forward to all that the enterprise can bring to our area. Thank you.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Vicki. And Donald Chisholm from Rotary Club of Parkes.

MR D.M. CHISHOLM: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Good afternoon, ladies
and gentlemen. My name is Donald Chisholm. I am a JP here in New South Wales,
5 a graduate of management from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology,
treasurer of the Rotary Club of Parkes and president elect. I appear to assist and
encourage the Commission to approve this development as quickly as possible. I
manage the Astro Dish Motor Inn here in Parkes and we provide accommodation to
the mining industry, among others. For example, we had staying with us this –
10 during this last week three experts from the Finnish company, Sandvik, who were
here to Commission a truck – a driverless truck that improves safety, productivity
and efficiency within mines.

30 years ago, North Parkes Mines came to Parkes and injected lifeblood into our
15 region. Their contribution has been and continues to be enormous. Rotary has stood
shoulder to shoulder with North Parkes Mines in serving the community in many
ways during these three decades. We imagine we will be doing the same with Clean
TeQ Sunrise, since they have already indicated their intention to fully embrace this
community. They have entered into progressive agreements with the local
20 government bodies with whom they are dealing. They have called for expressions of
interest for staff, suppliers of goods and services and they obviously intend to utilise
local wherever possible.

Any undue delay in your decision will delay the harvesting of the enormous capital
25 required to get this development up and running. It will also keep those locals
wishing to develop with them simply marking time. It will also delay the seating of
long term contracts for Clean TeQ Sunrise for their Finnish products. Clean TeQ
Sunrise are on the cusp of a transitional revolution and could, given this opportunity,
become a significant supplier of raw materials to the electric vehicle market. This
30 development could also hopefully encourage other manufacturers to set up and take
lateral advantage of Clean TeQ Sunrise's raw materials.

We know that Clean TeQ Sunrise have 40 years of mine life ahead of them and every
test drill they sent is expanding on this. The sooner they start, the sooner Australia
35 benefits from their production and exports. As with North Parkes Mines, nothing but
a positive impact has been the given experience in this region and in Parkes in
particular. The very professional and considerate manner in which Clean TeQ
Sunrise is approaching this development does illustrate their concern for the
environment, a sustainable and economically beneficial region. Our business has
40 already felt the benefit of increased occupancy.

The Rotary Club of Parkes expects to embrace Clean TeQ Sunrise in the same way
we do other organisations. For example, we run leadership courses for young people
and each of the Parkes Shire councils, roads and maritime services and North Parkes
45 Mines enrol their trainees into those leadership courses. We believe Clean TeQ
Sunrise will do likewise, so that their future leaders will come from within. In

conclusion, I commend Clean TeQ Sunrise's application to green light and I thank you for this opportunity to support their most important development.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Donald. And Greg Matthews.

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MR G. MATTHEWS: Hello, my name is Greg Matthews. In partnership with my wife, Annabel Blake, we operate a property at Rose Hill that's approximately eight kilometres away from where the borefield – water borefield site for Clean TeQ Mine is located. I am a member of the Concerned Borefield Residents Alliance. We have set up our property over the past 15 years to heavily rely on an irrigation bore with an allocation of 1194 mega litres. Infrastructure of over \$1 million has been put in place over this time to include three central pivots, a turkey nest dam for water recycling and storage and a pump powered by solar with approximately 300 panels, as well as layers of bays for irrigation totalling – with an irrigable area of 160 hectares for breeding and fattening sheep and cattle.

I do not object to a mine, but my main concern in having multiple bores operating within close proximity will bring a high level of drawn down within the aquifer and will have an effect on all surrounding bores. This is due to continually pumping and it would give no time for the aquifer to recharge with higher levels of water being taken. All current users do so for agricultural purposes, so in time of rain bores are not used for irrigation. This will not be the case with Clean TeQ, because they will continue to pump year round. I have seen, in dry times, use of close bores have dropped standing levels significantly. I also object to Clean TeQ to ever be able to increase their current licence of 3154 mega litres that they currently own and there should be a cease to pump rule put in place for Clean TeQ when surrounding bores' standing water levels drop by significant levels.

I would like to see them take surface water instead of groundwater, as well as lead the area in obtaining further water storage for the Lachlan Valley, as this is the only way the area can move forward, rather than fighting over our current limited resource. Thank you.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Greg. Ian Simmonds.

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MR I. SIMMONDS: Hello – is it on? It's on? Yeah. Mr Chariman, my name is Ian Simmonds. I'm a partner in a family partnership that encompasses the properties Green Grove and Stockland, with a large irrigation component. I am a member of the COBRA, Concerned Borefield Residents Alliance Incorporated. I live approximately one and a half kilometres due east of the proposed Clean TeQ borefield. We have two irrigation bores that we use to irrigate crops such as loose and winter cereals and summer cropping. We run a self-replacing – or a large self-replacing and we are dependent on our groundwater for our livelihood and water security.

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I'm not opposed to the mine, but I'm concerned that its existence may be based on flawed information from 20 years ago. The company engaged by Clean TeQ to do a

bore census, which involves 73 landholdings and 155 bores and was within a 10 kilometre radius of the 7 kilometre long borefield – very little useful information was gained from this census and I think we need real time data monitoring on the Clean TeQ bores and the development of trigger levels with the involvement of farmers’
5 input. My biggest concern: there’s still nothing in writing prior to this meeting to protect the groundwater from over extraction. We hear of trigger levels being sent, but nothing is documented.

10 The fact that Clean TeQ has a 20 year old environmental impact statement, you would think there would be lots of data on groundwater levels to support their water extraction 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Where is it? Clean TeQ have gathered no information over the last 18 years to help in any way to address our concerns. In my opinion, as an irrigator – and some anecdotal evidence from my own experience,
15 there is a significant lowering of the water table of the North Parkes Borefield to the east of Forbes and also the evolution of the Lake Cowal Borefield to the south of the proposed Clean TeQ borefield. All of these borefields are putting stress on this aquifer and I think it is totally unsustainable.

20 In closing, I would like to think that the MOD 4 should be not approved until Clean TeQ have done a lot more work and shared their information with us as residents of the borefields. I would like to acknowledge our general manager, Steve Laing, for putting an objection in which has given us this little window of opportunity and has put the Gerrawong district on the map. And to you, the Independent Panel, thank
25 you for hearing my concerns.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Ian. Kyle Rayner from Bent Food and Wine.

MR K. RAYNER: Good afternoon. I’m Kyle Rayner. My partner and I are the
30 owners of Bent Food and Wine, a restaurant located here in Parkes. And I am here in support of Clear TeQ and the MOD 4 application. We believe that the build of this mine will provide great opportunities for small businesses to grow, such as in hospitality for corporate meetings, offsite catering, to – sorry – offsite catering and increase in local foot traffic trade, produced by the increase of local jobs made by Clean TeQ. From a small business point of view, the economic growth that would be
35 injected into the town surrounding the mine would ensure the longevity and growth of smaller, locally owned business, which will in turn create more local jobs well into the future. Thank you.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Kyle. And Damien O’Donnell from Spinifex Recruiting.
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MR D. O’DONNELL: Good afternoon, Commission, and ladies and gentlemen. I represent Spinifex Recruiting, a regional staffing business established here in Parkes in 1994. We support the Clean TeQ project and have supplied staffing to the Sunrise project the last six months. Spinifex has worked with Northparkes since 1994 and
45 the Cowra project since ’96. These projects have been crucial to our success and survival, and I believe they’ve been excellent community citizens. Our early indication of Clean TeQ has the same community commitment. During construction,

we see the benefit of the 1000 to 2000 jobs, but that is a two year for a fixed period. We are more passionate about the lasting sort of career opportunities that exist within that 20 to 40 year project lifetime.

5 So when I say careers, as opposed to jobs, I mean a career being something that someone can join from an entry level, complete training and have progression opportunities to forge a lasting career. We've seen countless careers formed at Northparkes and Evolution where someone has joined from or after a closing of another industry or something not working out and gone on to be supervisors or
10 managers and, in some instances, even seen the next generation of their family join that business. So we support the Clean TeQ project for those career opportunities that it provides. Thank you.

15 MR CARTER: Thanks, Damien. Thanks, Damien. I think Paul Darcy couldn't be with us, so we'll move on to Peter Grant.

MS: Peter's not here. He sends his apologies; a family matter in Queensland.

20 MR CARTER: That's fine. Thank you so Tim and Jenny Webb.

MS J. WEBB: Hello. Hello. Before I start, I'm going to say it's 30 years since my husband and I actually moved to Forbes and bought our first property. We called the property Otimi, Over Time In Mount Isa. Mount Isa was where we were for eight
25 years and the mining industry is where we first made our start. Hi. My name is Jenny Webb. I am deputy mayor of Forbes Shire Council and have always declared a community interest on council in regard to Clean TeQ Sunrise mines, as four of the proposed bores and pumping station is located on our property today I speak on behalf of my husband, Tim, and I as resident and farmer in the district and my
30 opinions and views are personal and are not representative of council

We have a grazing operation in the district west of Forbes. Typically, we carry a range of 10 to 12 males and Merino sheep, depending on time of year and seasonal conditions. Predominately, these stock are watered from six bores equipped with
35 solar pumps. In summer, these sheep require about 70,000 litres every day. This has happened sustainability for generations and we would like to see it happen for generations to come. Currently, Clean TeQ have two bores and two proposed bores on our land over approximately four kilometres. These four bores are part of six in total from which they expect to extract up to 3200 megalitres per year to be pumped
40 to Fifield.

Only two of these six bores have been drilled and pump tested. What, if there is no water in the other proposed four bores? I am curious to know what their strategy is if they cannot locate water. Clean TeQ talk about strategically pumping this borefield,
45 but history shows that all these bores are linked and pumped from the one aquifer. Having pumped irrigation water from Clean TeQ's western bore for periods of two to three weeks at a time, and having monitored all these bores quarterly for about six

years, reporting originally to Ivan Platts, Tim and I have seen firsthand the last drawdown of 13 to 14 metres and slow recharge to normal standing water levels.

5 All this with the extraction of eight megalitres a day for a matter of a couple of weeks, not 10 megalitres a day for 52 weeks of the year for the lifespan of the mine as proposed. Our stock bores, while the closest to these borefields, are by no means the only ones that will be detrimentally affected from the drawdown of these waters. In the recent bore census, there are over 150 bores across 73 properties. All of our neighbours to the north are particularly reliant on groundwater for their stock, as
10 their country is heavy, flat and service water catchment is not possible. If groundwater is lost in a 15 – in 10 to 15 kilometre radius of this borefield, it will put at risk billions of dollars of food and fibre production into the future.

15 Our operational aim in one lifetime has and will generate in excess of \$100 million for the local economy, and we are only one of many graziers and irrigators that would be affected. Funds from this agricultural production flow directly into the taxpayer economy of Forbes, which in turn supports employment, businesses and schools, such as Bedgerebong, which has served this community for over 125 years. Collectively, these rural landholders would pay over \$200,000 in rates to Forbes
20 Shire Council and put into the Forbes economy over \$30 million a year. Forbes Shire Council's primary industry is agriculture and with the Inland Rail impending, the agricultural look is very positive.

25 I believe there is nowhere near enough up to date hydrological information to support the proposed extraction and certainly not enough safeguards in place, such as independent real-time monitoring, trigger levels and compensatory measures in place to give the farming and mining community any certainty of their futures. It will be no one's interest, mining or agriculture, to see the underground water level drop to unsustainable levels. I hope to meet with the Honourable Niall Blair, Minister for
30 Primary Industries and Minister for Regional Water in a few weeks' time, and I want to impress upon him the importance of an independent body to capture real-time water monitoring and how critical it is to have appropriate trigger levels established to safeguard both the farming and the mining community.

35 We have heard firsthand problems arising with bores around borefields at other mines, so it is my belief that it should not be left to the mining industry alone to take the charge in what they believe is the best preventative action or fair compensation if the water supply to the landholder is adversely impacted. To be clear, we're certainly not against the mining venture and can see the benefits it can bring to this
40 area, but we cannot understand why Clean TeQ does not or cannot obtain enough surface water for their operation and function under the same constraints as everyone else to minimise risk to agricultural businesses around them.

45 The other issue of concern was during the construction phase. I believe that Clean TeQ have informed the Department of Planning that the water haulage from the borefield site to the Fifield line is now off the plan. And I would like to thank Clean TeQ and councils involved in removing around 35 B-double trucks daily on

unsuitable roads and through our villages, but I'm not quite sure has this been changed as yet in MOD 4? The other issue of concern will be the noise generated from the generator in pumping water from the borefields to Fifield. Yes, we are only but a few residents close, but should we have to put up with continual noise pollution?

I would urge the planning Commission to look at the bigger, long-term picture and not just perceived short-term benefits when considering issues before them. Let's hope common sense prevails. Thank you for the opportunity to voice a small part of our concerns here today.

MR CARTER: Thanks, Jenny. John Herbert was unable to attend today, so Johnathan Drady.

MR J. DRADY: Good afternoon. I'm Johnathan Drady. I'm a primary producer and reside at approximately 10 kilometres east of the borefields intended to be utilised by the proponent. I, along with my young family, operate a full crop farm enterprise that sustainably grows wheat, canola and chickpeas which, in annual average production, supplies enough carbohydrate and protein to support 17,000 human souls annually. Put another way, that's 6.2 million people that my sole farming enterprise can feed for one day a year.

So today, with approximately 20 other farmers speaking that will be affected by the proponent's borefield or the mine itself, collectively, we can grow enough food to feed 24 million people today as I stand here speaking or, alternatively, we can provide those fibres that a proportion of our garments that we're now currently wearing would be made from. I support this development and I know it will bring the broad social and economic prosperity to the region. My concerns for the project are both on the borefield and the effect that it's going to have on my property and also the neighbours in the vicinity of the on-ground works of the mine, which we've heard here today.

My properties have always been blessed with ample supplies and good quality bore water. This is an asset to our properties and has been never so more apparent than in this current drought, both in its ability to provide water to livestock, wildlife and also domestic work for sanitary purposes in our households, in addition to some amenity around our homesteads in the form of something green – a lawn – a great escape and a harbour for mental sanctity as we come home from, at times, an unescapable, bleak, brown outlook in times of the current drought.

I must admit that, probably due to my own preoccupations, I feel I've been somewhat blindsided by this development. At the time of the original applications, I was merely a fledging adult and I was more concerned in other things and attempting to make sense of the world and how I may be able to contribute to the world in a positive manner. My current oblivion, however, has probably more due to the flood of red tape as a farmer I have to wade through to run an ethical law-abiding enterprise, so I can empathise with the proponent here today with the amount of red

tape both it and its employees needs to plow through to get some – you know, possibly a great project underway.

5 I'm beginning to understand that that red tape – as it gets more and more complex, it
diverts us further and further away from ethical and moral standards and behaviour –
the bedrock upon which is to look out for and promote your aspirations but never do
so in a way that compromises another individual or group and never, especially,
exploit a helpless minority. The modus operandi in society has become somewhat
10 smoke-and-mirror-like where public campaigns have built the perception of
credible, palatable values and outcomes for the vast majority whilst the truth at
times is vastly different. It is here today, with the chance to speak and hopefully be
heard, where I see a glimmer of hope for those who stand to be, to some degree,
disrupted or disadvantaged by this development.

15 Extraction of such large amounts of bore water over a continuous period is simply
alarming and may permanently degrade this precious resource and aquifer. As a near
neighbour of the borefields, I seek to have the compensatory reinstatement of water
clause returned, along with real-time monitoring of their borefields and selected
neighbours' irrigation bores to ensure this resource isn't damaged and depleted
20 neither during or after the mine's lifespan.

I cannot see as to what is to be lost by the proponent as to protect and monitor this as
it is – by monitoring it is to protect their own investment in operations. Equally
troubling today is the removal of the voluntary acquisition and several comments
25 today that assert all will benefit from this. No. There is a minority here that may
suffer and they're just seeking a safeguard. Give it and any resistance – give these
assurances and any resistance will morph into rapturous support for this project.

30 Another troubling musing today has been that in the – that the past is in agriculture;
the future is in mining. I would expect that, without agriculture, this mine would be
the last thing on anyone's agenda. Food and clothing is a need. Economic prosperity
is a want. Once the mine moves on, we need agriculture remaining or there will be
no future here. We can have it all. All that needs to go back in is the measures of
35 protections for the minority that may be negatively affected. Please do more than
just hear our concerns here today and please implement the required amendments
and trigger levels so that all parties get on with things with unequivocal support of
each other and let's get the region kicking along even stronger. Thank you for
hearing me today.

40 MR CARTER: Thanks, Jonathan. And Tom Simmonds.

MR T. SIMMONDS: Thank you. Pretty hard to beat that one. I'm a partner in a
family partnership and a member of COBRA, the Concerned Borefields Residents
Alliance. Our farms are approximately 1.5 kilometres east of the proposed Clean
45 TeQ borefield. We have two operational irrigation bores that we use periodically
throughout the year in conjunction with pumps on the Lachlan River as well as stock
and domestic bores. We irrigate many crops millet, wheat, barley and other high-

value crops. We also run Merino sheep. We are highly dependent on groundwater for our livelihood.

5 While I'm not wholly opposed to the mine and associated water needs, I do question what sort of dysfunctional government and associated departments would rubber-stamp an EIS that was done nearly 18 years ago to allow this project to go ahead. I'm damn sure that if any member of the public had come forward with an 18-year-old EIS, they would be quickly told to redo it under current environmental rules. I can only hope that this independent planning Commission hearing is not just another
10 government smokescreen which is hell-bent on improving any and all mining projects throughout the state.

My biggest concern – that there is still nothing in writing prior to this meeting to at least protect our valuable resource from the concentrated extraction. Yes, there is
15 talk of trigger levels, etcetera, but nothing is documented. You would think that the Clean TeQ company using an 18-year-old environmental impact statement – they would have reams of technical data on the groundwater levels to support their concentrated 24/7, 365-days-a-year extraction. If so, where is it? In my opinion, as an irrigator and through evidence from my own experience, there is a significant
20 lowering of the water table of the Northparkes borefield to the East Forbes and also the evolution – Cowal borefield to the south of this proposed Clean TeQ borefield. All of these borefields were in the same channel as what we're using.

This aquifer is under extreme stress from this 24/7 non-stop pumping. All I ask is for
25 common sense to prevail with all necessary constraints and triggers put in place before this mining juggernaut is unleashed. Once the horse has bolted, there is no turning back. Our groundwater is far too precious for this to be taken for granted. Thanks.

30 MR CARTER: Thanks very much, Tom. That concludes our registered speakers for today, so I would like to thank you all very much for attending. I just reiterate that the Commission will accept written comments through till 23 October, so if you or anyone you know wants to make comment, please get those in and the email address and mail address is on the IPC and website. So I will just declare the
35 meeting closed. Thank you.

RECORDING CONCLUDED

[1.40 pm]