To the Independent Planning Commission,

I would like to state my support of the Sunrise mine project. There are multiple benefits that I see in store for my own community as well as the surrounding area.

Ultimately this project will create a lot of jobs in both the construction phase and once the mine is operational. This means more money flowing through our towns, but more importantly, more people living in our towns and growing our communities. Stagnating or declining population levels are an issue facing many rural communities, especially amongst the working age group demographic. I am not so naïve to think that a certain proportion of jobs will go to fly in fly out workers & workers from communities outside our own, but assume many local people will apply for jobs and others will relocate to our area.

The opportunities for local businesses to quote and tender for contracts with Cleanteq are not likely to impact me directly, but I believe they will help to bring new business into our communities.

I believe there is a larger reason that we should be supportive of this project, on the global scale. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change just released its most dire warning to date about the risks posed by inaction on the issue of greenhouse gas emissions. I do not claim to understand the metrics of the carbon footprint of this mine versus others, or know how much CO2 the average combustion engine produces. However, I have to assume a project that will deliver more materials that help to supply the lithium ion battery market and potentially lead to more electric vehicles replacing combustion engines as well as other renewable energy projects can only be a step in the right direction.

Another moral benefit of developing a new Australian cobalt mine is that the majority of the world’s cobalt production occurs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is an area of concern in regard to human rights abuses regarding child and slave labour.

The mine also leaves potential to develop a local industry that makes use of these raw materials producing lithium ion batteries and other products. Wishful thinking perhaps, but with the close proximity of rail transport and the Parkes National Logistics Hub, this is food for thought.

Whilst this mine will not help farmers suffering the effects of drought directly, diversification of the local economy will help to minimise the effect of drought on the wider community and leave non-farmers in a position where they are better able to help support farmers in times of hardship.

I understand that there have been objections raised against the use of river water by the Sunrise mine. Whilst water security is a serious issue facing the whole Lachlan valley and beyond, the amount of water used by the project is much less than some of our largest irrigators and will have, I believe, a better return on investment (from a mega litres/$ perspective) than any crop grown along the Lachlan river.

Thank you,

Dave Rees