



TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING

RE: LIVERPOOL RANGE QUARRY (SSD-68063715)

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

PANEL: TERRY BAILEY (CHAIR)
SARAH DINNING (PANEL MEMBER)

OFFICE OF THE IPC: KENDALL CLYDSDALE
STUART MORGAN

COMMUNITY
REPRESENTATIVE: GRANT PIPER

LOCATION: CASSILIS COMMUNITY CENTRE
BUCCLEUGH STREET, CASSILIS

DATE: 11:30AM – 11:40AM
WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

<THE MEETING COMMENCED

5 **MR TERRY BAILEY:** Good morning and welcome, Grant. And just by introduction, we're meeting today to discuss the state significant development application for the Liverpool Range Quarry, which is SSD-68063715. And we're speaking today from Wiradjuri lands and I acknowledge the traditional owners.

10 I'm Terry Bailey and the Chair of the Panel, and I'm joined by fellow commissioner, Sarah Dinning, and members of the Office of the Independent Planning Commission, Stuart and Kendall are helping on this project.

15 And as you'd be aware, in the interests of openness and transparency, we're recording the meeting, and the full transcript from today will be made available in the coming few days.

And just to reiterate, this is the discussion about the quarry, given the Liverpool Range Wind Farm was approved in 2018. And just as we do begin, Grant, it'd be great for the tape if you could just introduce, so that we can get that.

20 **MR GRANT PIPER:** Yes. Grant Piper, a local landowner/farmer. Yes. Grew up in the district, went to school up the hill there, my father was born here when we had a hospital in Cassilis. So, yes, it's home turf.

25 And, yes, I mean, you know my views on this stuff, I think it's all arse-about and not very well thought through, and that includes the quarry and Tilt and the Liverpool Range Wind Farm. I mean, there mightn't should've been a new project, we believe, and now you're adding on the quarry on as well. And other people have made the comment, that should have been wrapped into that project, not just tacked on the end. And I think that's the truth because people are not given the full picture initially, and they're not making decisions based on the full picture.

30 And that expands further to the, you know, the cumulative impact – no one will tell us where this stops. It's just an endless drive for more and more, and there's no end point, and there's no 'that's enough', it's just more and more for the whole REZ and across the country. So, it just doesn't seem like at this point there's any ... You know, I know that the Tilt Project has been in play for many years, and we thought that was just, well, it's just up there on one landowner's property, we'll let them do their thing, you know, we'll get over this fetish and they won't go any further.

35 And then they drop the REZ on us, and it's gone on from there, and there's no inkling out of awareness that the whole thing is a waste of time and doesn't work very well, given the amount of money to be spent on it. And yes, so I just think the whole thing is backwards. I mean, the whole thing needs to be reconsidered before you destroy the whole local environment as well as what's left of our industry and economy.

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45 I mean, if you've looked up the country or you look at the quarry site, and you look north to where the Liverpool Range Wind Farm is, I mean, that's all black basalt country. I mean, it's where they stop knocking the tops off those hills and the access

roads, it's all going to end up down the valleys and in the riverways. The erosion potential is enormous. I don't know if they really realise what they're dealing with yet. So, the consequences of making these poor decisions and on the fly without full investigation and then just on-selling the project to the next money, when it comes to actually building, there's going to be immense local damage.

And regarding to the roads, I mean, yes, you've driven across from Dubbo. I mean, we're putting up with that daily, travelling between properties. The work sites where they're often not working but they've got half the road closed. And all that work at those intersections digging those 90-metre blades around, I mean, none of that's for us. I mean, they do up sections of road, and we're still left with only two lanes. They do the verges so they can get off the road a bit without it collapsing, but you don't get an overtaking lane.

Even, you know, with the property at Stocks Lane intersection, which is a shocking intersection, where it crosses the Great Dividing Range there, and there's no turning lane to get into that lane or out of that lane, and it's a blind access onto the highway, the Golden Highway. And they've worked there for months, and they didn't provide a turning lane or anything for our safety with all these vehicles and heavy traffic that's going to be on them. It's bad enough now, it's going to get worse.

You know, there's a cement truck every 15 minutes coming around, it must be a 250-kilometre round trip to the Merotherie workers camp substation from Ulan or Mudgee or somewhere. And all the gravel for all these roadworks and all the underpinnings of the road, that's all being carted in from timbucktoo, somewhere else, quarries down the valley.

And then they closed all the local quarries over the last four years so you can't get your road material locally and they cart it in from somewhere else. But then God forbid, Tilt has to cart anything in, and they're going to dig a quarry locally. I mean, we can't have a quarry locally to fix our roads. Give it the wind farm and they can do what they like.

And all that extra traffic, like they make the point in their discussion, that yes, it's going to take the traffic off local roads and transport from Dubbo and wherever else they were talking about getting their material from, so that's good. But all this other work, you know, is knocking the rest of the roads about. They're doing the 300 metres around the intersection but the rest of the road's going to [redacted] because it's got so many cement trucks and other heavy vehicles on it.

I mean, none of this is for us, and I think the whole thing is absurd. And we need to get real if we're going to save any economy or any real industry in this country.

Happy to take questions. I've had my bleat, pretty much.

MR BAILEY: No, I think that, for our [unintelligible 00:06:10], that's clear. Just opening up, some have given thought, I don't know if you've looked at the conditions or have an interest in the conditions ...

MR PIPER: Well, not really, no, I mean, you're going to approve it, you've approved everything else, a whole bunch that we know or hoped that the IPC is going to turn down any of these projects, because I haven't seen it yet. So, I don't think looking at the conditions is really that relevant.

I've read through some of the transcripts, and I've looked at the project slides and brief in as much as time as I could afford. But as I said, I think it's a diminishing returns after a point, because we know what the answer is, and it's not just looking at each project individually and going that's all my job is, and that's all and that's all my job is, and not looking at the whole thing, just misses the point completely.

It's like the mapping of Steven Nowakowski and the Rainforest Reserves put out; they've mapped the whole country with projects and the flyover he's done. No government's done that work, and they deny it exists, and they don't want you to know. I mean, why haven't they done that work? They have all these consultation sessions and information sessions, and they tell you nothing. They don't tell you what you need to know. And then when someone does it, they go, "Oh no, that's all wrong." I mean, the government should've been doing that from the outset – but there should be an end point. They should go, "This is what we're going to do and then we're going to stop." But there isn't. They're just saying, "This is what we're going to do now and we're going to keep on going forever and ever."

MR BAILEY: And hearing very deeply, and it does concern us as well, that cumulative impacts that you're talking to. Yes. And having clarity and guidance on that.

MR PIPER: Well, having an end point. We want – well, not that it'll help really, but I mean, you need to have something that's definite, and not just this never-ending story of, "Oh, power prices will be cheap one day," which is just crap, they never will be by this system, because we're building in the cost, the fixed costs, the overhead with the power and transmission, which is 40 or 50% of our bills, and Transgrid doesn't miss a trick.

So, you know, we're building this in for the next generation and longer. You won't be able to – you'll never have cheap power as long as you've got all that transmission build.

MR BAILEY: Thanks for coming and sharing, because there are a range of points in there and there are a range of points that we've certainly been in conversation about. And it's really helpful again to hear that and to hear that firsthand. And today is taken as a submission and it will be transcribed. There is a submission period that is open until next Wednesday at 5 o'clock.

MR PIPER: Yes.

MR BAILEY: So, just a reminder on that. But, thank you for your time and thank you for frankness.

MR PIPER: Yes, yes. But I mean, where does it go, does any of this ever go up the chain any further to people who need to hear it? Are they hearing it or are they not hearing it?

5 **MR BAILEY:** We prepare and present our findings, including through our statement of reasons and conditions, where we do give an approval. When we don't give an approval, through a statement of reasons. And a range of things can get picked up in those and I think it's reasonable to say this, if you went and had a look at the statement of reasons for a couple of decisions, that the Commission did express concern that the
10 cumulative work has not been concluded. And that our work would be better guided by the cumulative work being completed. So, we do present that, we have said that, and we have put that back, and it goes back to government in discussion as well.

15 **MR PIPER:** Yes, what I've seen so far is the government has pushed back at you about defining or doing a cumulative impact study – that's my reading and what I've seen, is they've pushed, they're aware of that, that it hasn't been done, but they've pushed back against doing it, and made a decision not to do it.

20 **MR BAILEY:** Well, my understanding is that the work is being done at the moment, but it's not concluded. And we've put in a couple of decisions from the Planning Commission itself, concerns that that work is not available to guide planning decisions, if we're taking them when they're decisions from the Independent Planning Commission.

25 So, certainly hearing it, I understand what you're saying and we've certainly put back in a couple of statement of reasons concerns that the cumulative work has not been concluded to help guide with the decision making of the Independent Planning Commission.

30 **MR PIPER:** Okay.

MR BAILEY: Thank you.

35 **MS SARAH DINNING:** Thanks, Grant.

MR PIPER Thanks for travelling up. We'll see you next time.

MR BAILEY: Thanks.

40 **>THE MEETING CONCLUDED**