

Deans Quarry (SSD-68063715)

Independent Planning Commission NSW

Email: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Re: Objection to the Liverpool Range Quarry – Incomplete and Inconsistent Submissions Report (February 2025)

I am writing as long-term resident near the proposed Liverpool Range Quarry to lodge a formal objection to the project now before the Independent Planning Commission for determination.

I have carefully reviewed the *Liverpool Range Quarry Submissions Report (February 2025)* prepared by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd for ARDG Deans Quarry Pty Ltd. In my view, the document remains incomplete, inconsistent, and procedurally inadequate under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Approving the development on the basis of the current material would, in my opinion, present an unacceptable risk to the surrounding community, environment, and local infrastructure.

The Submissions Report explicitly states that a response to the BCS (DCCEEW) submission “is being prepared.” This means the environmental assessment before the Commission is incomplete, with key biodiversity offset and habitat management matters outstanding.

The IPC should not proceed to determination until this critical input has been reviewed and addressed publicly, consistent with procedural fairness and transparency obligations.

The Warrumbungle Shire Council lodged a formal objection citing unresolved cumulative and cross-boundary impacts. The proponent’s response does not demonstrate:

- Any mitigation or funding arrangements for increased road maintenance costs due to the change from westerly traffic flow to Project, to now a proposed easterly flow
- Reassessment of noise, dust and blasting effects on nearby properties; or
- Agreement to a Planning Agreement to compensate affected communities.

These matters remain unresolved and should weigh strongly against approval.

Despite extensive community concern about the quality of engagement and data transparency, the proponent's response merely asserts compliance without evidence of further dialogue.

Water resources were the most frequently raised issue, yet the Submissions Report relies on out of district modelling and provides no cumulative assessment with the Liverpool Range Wind Farm or other REZ projects.

The proposed groundwater extraction (Works Approval 80CA706124) has not been supported by draw-down or connectivity analysis for adjoining bores. Without this data, the Commission cannot be satisfied that the project will avoid significant impact on local water users.

Surface water modelling is based on incorrect labelling of project area as Dry Climate. Downstream of this project, the Talbragar River flows will be greatly diminished.

The report claims that "none of the State agencies objected," even though the EPA, Transport for NSW, and DCCEE Water Assessments, NSW Water all requested further information before determination.

This statement is misleading and downplays the seriousness of outstanding regulatory concerns. Such inaccuracies cast doubt on the reliability of the proponent's entire response document.

The *Updated Project Justification* emphasises regional economic benefits but fails to account for:

- Amenity and land-value losses for adjoining properties;
- Seismic shocks, noise and dust exposure from blasting affecting livestock and rural living; and
- Safety risks from intensified quarry traffic on Rotherwood Road and Vinegaroy Road, including safety concerns over dust on principally gravel roads.

Without quantified social and environmental cost analysis, the project cannot be demonstrated to be in the public interest as required by Section 4.15 of the *EP&A Act*.

Although the quarry exists solely to supply materials for the Liverpool Range Wind Farm, cumulative impacts have not been assessed. Treating the quarry as a stand-alone SSD is inconsistent with integrated assessment principles and artificially limits the consideration of combined noise, traffic, and ecological effects.

Request to the Commission

Given these substantial gaps and inconsistencies, I respectfully request that the Independent Planning Commission:

1. Refuse the development application on the grounds of incomplete and unreliable information; **or**
2. Defer determination until:
 - The full DCCEE/BCS response and any required biodiversity offset revisions are made public;
 - Cross-LGA traffic and infrastructure impacts are resolved through a formal Planning Agreement; and
 - Updated water and cumulative impact assessments are completed and independently verified.

As a nearby landholder, I will be directly affected by noise, dust, blasting vibration, traffic, surface water – Talbragar River flows – and groundwater impacts if this quarry proceeds. The Submissions Report fails to provide adequate assurance that these impacts will be prevented or mitigated.

On the basis of incomplete assessment, unresolved agency advice, and inconsistency with the *EP&A Act* principles of ecologically sustainable development, I urge the Commission to refuse or defer consent for the Liverpool Range Quarry.

Thank you for considering my submission.