



TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING

RE: LIVERPOOL RANGE QUARRY (SSD-68063715)

COMMUNITY MEETING

PANEL:	TERRY BAILEY (CHAIR) SARAH DINNING (MEMBER)
OFFICE OF THE IPC:	KENDALL CLYDSDALE ISAAC CLAYTON
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE:	DR SARA FERGUSON
LOCATION:	ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE
DATE:	3:15PM – 3:42PM FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2025

<THE MEETING COMMENCED

MR TERRY BAILEY: Good afternoon.

5 **DR SARA FERGUSSON:** Hi, thank you.

MR BAILEY: And thank you for your time. I'll just do a quick introduction before we start and just ... We're meeting today to discuss the state significant development application for the Liverpool Range Quarry, which is SSD-68063715. And I'm
10 speaking to you from Yuin Country, and I acknowledge the traditional owners of all the lands and countries that we're meeting from today.

My name is Terry Bailey and I'm the Chair of this Panel and joining me on the Panel is my fellow commissioner, Sarah Dinning.
15

MS SARAH DINNING: Good afternoon.

MR BAILEY: And we have staff members Kendall Clydsdale and Isaac Clayton supporting us from the Office of the Independent Planning Commission.
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DR FERGUSSON: Thank you both, thank you.

MR BAILEY: And just in the interests of openness and transparency, the meeting is recorded, and a full transcript of the meeting will be available on the Commission's website in the coming days.
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And today's discussion that we're working through relates to the proposed quarry development and not to the Liverpool Range Wind Farm per se which was approved in 2018.
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And just before you do speak for the first time, if you could just please introduce yourself so that that's captured for the transcript, for transcript purposes. And again, I thank you for your time, I know you've had a very busy week but thank you for your time and happy hand across to you.
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DR FERGUSSON: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Bailey, thank you everyone. My name is Sara Fergusson. I was wondering if I could share my screen – I don't know if the host – I think you have – I first of all wanted to show you this picture and I think that'll be important. I'm happy to leave it there or, yes, perhaps I'll leave it there unless you ask me to take it down.
40

MR BAILEY: No, whatever you're most comfortable with in terms of sharing, and Kendall had forwarded to us as well.

45 **DR FERGUSSON:** Yes, thank you.

MR BAILEY: But feel free to leave it up.

5 **DR FERGUSSON:** Yes, please enjoy, enjoy that photograph. So, I do have significant concerns regarding the Independent Planning Commission process leading up to what was initially announced as a public meeting on the proposed Liverpool Plain Range Quarry. And I do have further concern further back with the process of the independent planning, as you said, this is about Liverpool Range Quarry, but it is a project that feeds into the Valley of the Winds, which is a project that feeds into the Central-West Orana REZ. And in particular, Merotherie Road Hub and Camps. So, that's an important context for you and me –

10 **MR BAILEY:** Just to assist in one clarification, Dr Fergusson. I think you've referred to an alternate wind farm development in terms of the Valley of the Winds. The project that we're looking at is the Liverpool Range Quarry.

15 **DR FERGUSSON:** Yes, I apologise, and I have to say that I actually had another night on call where I have been a patient that needed to be transferred. So, I have had another night of not sleeping, I think, when I spoke to you on the phone before. So, I do apologise, yes.

20 But look, we can mention the Valley of the Winds – they're all feeder projects, they're all becoming, I'm probably just an example of many of the local people that inhabit and live, and I'm Scottish and I'm very grateful to the community for, you know, becoming a part of it and marrying into a family that has been living there, and I'm respectful of all those around me and of the First Nations people that trod the earth before any of us were here, and I have significant respect and eternally grateful to the people that have embraced me from Aboriginal background.

25 But what I wanted to say today was that I don't believe, with all due respect as commissioners, Mr Bailey and Ms Dinning, that you are in any way able to make a decision on this Liverpool Range Quarry, and that's with all due respect. But without comprehensive information on the cumulative impact of this project and of the other major developments in New South Wales, nor detailed and verified information on water usage for this proposal amongst many other factors, I don't believe the community are in a position, nor are the Commission, to properly assess the combined environmental, social and economic affects that are core to a determination.

30 So, that is my main point. I believe that proceeding for the community to be asked to comment – excuse me, I'll pause and have a sip of water. But in the absence of the evidence, I do believe it risks breaching section 4.15.1(b) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in New South Wales, which does require the Commissioner to consider the likely impacts of the development in its locality.

35 As such, I do respectfully request that I and other members of the community have an opportunity to meet with the Independent Planning Commissioner, Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher, to discuss my and others concerns prior to any further review or any other determination being made on the Liverpool Range Quarry, and as you said, that's SSD-68063715. And I say that respecting myself and those others that are affected and impacted by this proposed quarry, which feeds into a proposed wind turbine project which feeds into the Central-West Orana REZ.

I understand that the Independent Planning Commission was established on the 1st of March in 2018 and it is considered independent. I understand that the Chair reports to the Minister and that commissioners are appointed with the decision-making skills as critical to their appointment, and they are independent of the Minister. But I do have concerns and would like to discuss this process.

If I return you to this photo, our farm, our property where our children grew up, my husband grew up, is to the right of this photo on Merotherie Road. We border Merotherie Road to the west and the Golden Highway to the north. This beautiful corridor of native gum trees, some of them are recognised as being hundreds of years older, are incredibly important to so many of us that not only live there, and of course to the wildlife, but to many visitors. So, it's a well-loved cycling path that many people come and enjoy. It's a quiet, dirt road.

And we are immediate neighbours to Merotherie Road Hub and Camps – they're just to the left on the western side of that photo. You probably can see a fence – the land to the left was bought by EnergyCo. We weren't aware of this. We're not identified on the EIS as neighbours. And we weren't consulted. We didn't have an opportunity, we weren't aware, and it may – you know, you may find that hard to believe, but we weren't aware of this Merotherie Hub and Camps. I first heard about – we were aware of the transmission line, but I first heard about the hub and camps almost a year ago, the end of November, by pure chance.

So, I believe there's a fundamental flaw in this Independent Planning Commission process. So, there has been no cumulative impact study for not only the Liverpool Range Quarry, but certainly for the Central-West Orana Hub. It's unimaginable that we weren't consulted, and we're significantly impacted. But I speak not only for myself and for my family and for my community, but I speak as a doctor for many patients or people who turn to you as a professional.

There are so many people that are terrified of this process. I'm finding it uncomfortable. I am unfamiliar with it. I grapple to try and understand and read about things. I don't want to be confrontational, but I find sometimes looking at the commissioners involved, like, can there be conflicts of interest? You know, those that have companies that provide consulting work to the government but then are in this independent position making decisions about us in a rural area, when you don't live here.

And I guess I'm speaking on behalf of those people that are absolutely terrified of this process, don't know how to submit, don't have internet access or ... I find it baffling to find the deadlines to find how I submit something. We're terrified of our names in public. We're terrified of the impact upon one and another, or what neighbours feel, and the fabric of society relies on good neighbours. Merotherie Hub and Camps have not been good neighbours to us. We hope we can work on that and improve it.

But I'm mindful of the time, I know we started a little bit late. But I did want to refer to the 31st of March 2025, a letter dated from the Warrumbungle Shire, a council that I found talking about another proposal, this one was the Valley of the Winds, and I apologise for referring to it inappropriately before. But it talks about the overall REZ

and the concerns, and Warrumbungle Shire mentioned on page 2, they carefully evaluated the EIS and made the merit-based decision that the EIS was inadequate, thus the lodging of an application.

5 And they refer onwards to that, and I note on page 6, or on page 5 of 6, they say, “Given the critical nature of the need for REZ-wide robust cumulative impact assessment and identification and implementation of prudent mitigation measures and enhanced road safety risks on the Golden Highway (der-der-der) ... Warrumbungle Shire Council urges the IPC not to approve this project until such time as ...” In the
10 same vein, I beg you, please, to not approve this project, until there has been sufficient information for the community and for you, as commissioners, to make a decision. I do not believe a determination can be made at this stage.

15 I’ve discussed at length, can we say, if you feel that a determination is made with recommendations, but I fundamentally personally believe you’re not even in a position to make that. I believe we need to go back many steps to the drawing board.

20 The IPC is relatively new, having started in 2018. You will know a lot more about it, I’m learning, I’m learning so much about many of these things. I’ve cut my professional work down since finding out about this hub and camp at the end of November. I can’t tell you how it’s impacted me and I can – the impact on the cumulative impact on the community is enormous.

25 Now, if I take you back to this photograph, because I’m mindful that I have a lot of concerns and this is a limited opportunity to raise them. But for example, and this is the reflection of what has happened in Merotherie Road that we have significant concerns about the open cut hard rock quarry within our community to the east. But if you look at this photo, sadly, in the last three weeks, not one of those trees remains. Not one. Every single tree has been chopped down. Occasional trees were left standing
30 with a H for habitat, but they’re to be removed and laid down. Not one of those trees – this is a protected corridor from the Council.

35 Because of this critical state significant infrastructure, the Minister and EnergyCo seem to feel they have a right to do whatever they want whenever they want. We are heartbroken that we’ve lost this corridor of trees. We’re heartbroken for First Nations people, as a reflection of what has been lost before, but this corridor remained and it was treasured by so many, let alone the wildlife. My children learnt to count, counting the galahs and the occasional black-crested cockatoo – you know, it’s ... there aren’t words to describe the loss.

40 This road, the trees were removed to widen this road to allow for the construction vehicles and equipment. If you look to the left on my screen, so to the west, that paddock’s owned by EnergyCo. It’s cleared. It would have been perfect. There was an entry to that project that could have been that internal road and left this corridor of
45 trees.

So, for whatever reason, I wanted to draw you to that attention because of the severity of the impact on the Central West, on our home and our community’s home, and it is the same impact that will happen if this quarry were to go ahead.

I have a lot of questions for you. I'm not sure if it's appropriate or if we have time.
But ...

5 **MR BAILEY:** There's two or three aspects. We've got a few more minutes,
Dr Fergusson. But I just want to touch on a couple of pieces. Firstly, your concerns
expressed around the cumulative impact aspect of the Central West Zone, so the
Renewable Energy Zone, is something that we've heard as commissioners from a
number of people in their representations to us. It's a concern that we're very aware of.

10 **DR FERGUSSON:** Thank you.

15 **MR BAILEY:** And the independence of the Independent Planning Commission is that
the Independent Planning Commission has raised back to the Department and to
EnergyCo now on a future occasions, concerns around the lack of a cumulative impact
study having been completed to contextualise all the projects. So, that's certainly
something that we're aware of and it's certainly been commentary in decisions made
by the Independent Planning Commission.

20 There are other concerns you've raised around process. Just to separate that out in a
couple of areas. One, not to confuse – and this is a government piece – the Independent
Privacy Commissioner who you might have been referring to is another IPC in the
New South Wales Government, that Emeritus Professor is not the Chair of the
Independent Planning Commission, it's Mr Andrew Mills, who is the Chair of the
25 Independent Planning Commission.

DR FERGUSSON: I apologise. Yes. Thank you.

30 **MR BAILEY:** For your awareness, we do have a series of process and procedural
pieces, particularly concerning the way all our matters are followed, which Kendall
would be happy to point you to – including our Conflict of Interest Policy, just to give
you some background on those.

35 **DR FERGUSSON:** Yes, it would have been maybe helpful if in that, you know,
because this, I had provided email correspondence, perhaps to have been corrected
earlier. I did question that and, you know, it's all –

MR BAILEY: No, that's okay, it's just sharing with you.

40 **DR FERGUSSON:** Yes, thank you. As community –

MR BAILEY: I'm just sharing with you.

45 **DR FERGUSSON:** Yes.

MR BAILEY: I did want to get back. Are there any questions, clarifications for the
Panel that you had in relation to the quarry per se and the proposal that's in front of the
commissioners?

DR FERGUSSON: I guess my question to you both would be that, as the commissioners responsible for making a determination, do you feel that you have been provided with enough information to make a determination?

5 **MR BAILEY:** So, we aren't at the point of making a determination. We will consider everything. Our public consultation phase for the Independent Planning Commission only closed Wednesday evening. The commissioners, I think, will be reviewing in the coming days the submissions that have come in through those processes. We have asked through the process a series of questions of the Proponent, of the Department,
10 for which responses have come back in and we've published those.

So, we're still pursuing information that will inform us in terms of the decision making that we do. And I couldn't share with you whether, just where that's at, because we're still in deliberation.

15 **DR FERGUSSON:** I understand that. I just think the point I want to make is that, you know, I don't think we as people living in that community feel that we have enough information. You know, the immediate feeling is that everything that we've been provided with is not enough to say, "Yes, go ahead, if considering this or that." The
20 feeling is that there is just not enough information.

And that their concern is, when something is stamped with critical state significant infrastructure, the overwhelming feeling as, you know, people on the floor that are obviously overwhelmed by the amount of vocabulary and connections and people
25 involved, but that we don't have that information and that it hasn't been provided. And that there is a rapid rollout of renewables that is happening beyond out of control within our community, without us having the opportunity to really be involved in this discussion.

30 How there's – I've talked about the challenges of submissions for individuals and the concerns about the opportunity to speak, the number of people that wanted to attend a public meeting, but it was cancelled and not able, but weren't confident enough to speak. It is a challenging thing, it's taking up an enormous amount of people's time. But, yes, you know, I think if I could, I think this critical state significant infrastructure
35 is – there's fundamental flaws in this.

So, if we, you know, and I know a little bit about both your backgrounds as commissioners from my brief review of the IPC website, but, you know, certainly Mr Bailey, I was – like, it's wonderful to have people in your position caring for
40 Sydney Harbour and Tasmanian national parks and wildlife, this is what was written, and I believe it's correct. But, you know, I'm sure you would understand that looking at a corridor of trees like this without respect of the community to have it in front of us all chopped, is a reflection of the concerns we have with this critical state significant infrastructure and the process of the IPC.

45 **MR BAILEY:** I understand and as I've said, the guidance and material for the processes that the IPC run are set out and concerns in that, there's a pathway to reflect those. All the work that we do in terms of any decision making is guided in the statutory arrangements under the EP&A Act, and so all our responsibilities sit in there,

and so our – any decision making or any processes that we run are consistent with the requirement so the act. That would be our view.

DR FERGUSSON: And would it be possible for it –

MR BAILEY: And we do recognise that as soon as something moves to being state significant development or comes to the IPC, it steps through a slightly different pathway to other approval processes under the act. So, we recognise that and hear that and understand that, Dr Fergusson.

DR FERGUSSON: And I and many others had significant concerns. We're highly concerned that due to the critical state significant infrastructure determination of these Renewable Energy Zones, the impact of this massive rollout is at times ... Yes, I haven't got words, to be honest. But I guess I have – I and many, and I speak on behalf of many that haven't been able to speak to you for whatever reasons, whether it's not being aware or not being comfortable, we implore you to consider that the information is not, that lays before us all is not adequate to make any determination on this quarry.

MR BAILEY: And that's certainly – certainly hearing that and respect that view, and we are yet to take a determination. We're still deep in deliberations. A number of the issues that you've raised today as it relates to the quarry, including the cumulative impacts piece, is certainly one that we've heard very strongly in many of the representations that we've had with community, both – and across multiple levels.

When I say that, in terms of the submissions that were initially made during the assessment of the development, during the meetings that we had a fortnight ago on site, and during the submissions that we've received this week directly. So, there are a number of points that you've raised today are certainly issues that we're very aware of, and Sarah and I are deeply in discussion on, Dr Fergusson. So, thank you.

DR FERGUSSON: Thank you.

MR BAILEY: Thank you for your time. Thank you for persisting in around timeline, time zones and other pieces. It's been very helpful and very insightful, as have been all our community conversations, to gain that depth of understanding.

DR FERGUSSON: Yes, thank you. I think it's very hard, you know, in this format on Zoom, is pretty tricky. We should all be good at it, but it doesn't beat meeting face to face, and I apologise that I wasn't able to be there due to ...

MR BAILEY: No, I understand.

DR FERGUSSON: I was the other side of the country attending a rural and remote doctors conference, which was unfortunate, but I'd committed to that some time before. But yes, I think I have, you know significant concern about the impact on rural communities and I've chosen to live in rural areas, and I'm committed to assisting with supporting doctors and any other health professionals in the area. And as a part of a farm and agriculture, it's just unbelievable to see prime agricultural land being devastated.

5 Yes, thank you. Maybe edit all my ums and ahs if you can, I'm not an articulate speaker, it's not my forte, and I do apologise that I was misled or followed the wrong IPC in terms of the commissioner, but it actually – the question remains outstanding, and I think I'd really welcome the opportunity to speak with – was it Mr Milne?

MR BAILEY: Yes, Mr Mills.

10 **DR FERGUSSON:** Mills, Mills, yes. If, you know, it would be really lovely to try and understand this process a little bit more, if he could perhaps give the opportunity to come to the Central West or provide a Zoom meeting perhaps. Or many of us are willing to travel to Sydney to have that opportunity, to be a little bit more involved.

15 It feels very much a “you” and “distant us” begging, grabbing, pleading, hanging onto branches that are being, you know, ripped before us.

20 **MR BAILEY:** We'll follow that up and pass that on, Dr Fergusson. Again, thank you very much for your time and thank you for persisting in terms of the technology over the last few days.

DR FERGUSSON: No, and thank you all for your patience with me. I really do appreciate it. Thank you.

25 **MR BAILEY:** Thank you. Have a great afternoon.

DR FERGUSSON: You, too. Thanks, Kendall and Isaac.

MS DINNING: Thank you.

30 **DR FERGUSSON:** I've stopped sharing, and I'll leave. Thank you.

>THE MEETING CONCLUDED