



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4

Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021

Report 49

August 2021

4



Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Industry

Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021

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Terms of reference

That:

- (a) the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 be referred to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry for inquiry and report,
- (b) the bill be referred to the committee at the conclusion of the mover's second reading speech,
- (c) the committee report by 12 August 2021.

The terms of reference were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 11 May 2021.¹

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 May 2021, p 2148.

Committee details

Committee members

The Hon Mark Banasiak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Chair</i>
Ms Cate Faehrmann*	The Greens	
The Hon Sam Farraway MLC	The Nationals	
The Hon Taylor Martin MLC**	Liberal Party	
The Hon Peter Poulos MLC***	Liberal Party	
The Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Mick Veitch MLC	Australian Labor Party	

* Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC substituted for the Hon Emma Hurst MLC from 13 May 2021 for the duration of the inquiry.

** The Hon Taylor Martin MLC replaced the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC as a member of the committee on 20 May 2021.

*** The Hon Peter Poulos MLC substituted for the Hon Lou Amato MLC from 13 May 2021 for the duration of the inquiry and then replaced him as a member of the committee on 20 May 2021.

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Chair's foreword

On 11 May 2021, the Legislative Council referred the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry for inquiry and report.

The Bill seeks to prohibit all new coal and gas mining and exploration in the Liverpool Plains. Specifically, the Bill would prohibit all new mining activities under the *Mining Act 1992* and the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991*, and cancel any pending applications or approvals that have not been commenced upon, without compensation.

It was apparent to the committee that the Liverpool Plains region has a long and complex history with mining. The Bill has come forward in the context of longstanding community opposition to mining activities and the recent cancellation of the Shenhua Watermark project. The NSW Government also released the Future of Gas Statement – which rules out gas production under most petroleum exploration licences in the Liverpool Plains but retains support for the Narrabri Gas Project – during the conduct of this inquiry.

The committee recommends that the Legislative Council proceed to consider the bill, and that the NSW Government address the committee comments and stakeholder concerns as set out in this report, during debate in the House.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all who participated in the inquiry for their interest in the matter, and for the time taken in preparing a submission and attending the public hearing. I would also like to thank the secretariat and Hansard for their assistance, and committee members for their contributions to this inquiry.



The Hon Mark Banasiak MLC
Committee Chair

Conduct of inquiry

The terms of reference for the inquiry were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 11 May 2021.

The committee received 8 submissions. An online questionnaire was also conducted and received 81 responses.

The committee held one public hearing at Parliament House in Sydney via videoconference, combining witnesses from this inquiry with the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021 inquiry.

Inquiry related documents are available on the committee's website, including submissions, hearing transcripts, tabled documents and answers to questions on notice.

Chapter 1 Overview

This chapter begins with an overview of the background and provisions of the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021. The chapter then discusses the evidence received on the merits of the bill.

Reference

- 1.1 The Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 (the bill) was introduced into the Legislative Council on 5 May 2021 by Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, member of The Greens.
- 1.2 The Legislative Council's Selection of Bills Committee recommended that the bill be referred to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry.² On 11 May 2021, the Legislative Council resolved to refer the bill to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry for inquiry and report by 12 August 2021.³

Background and purpose of the bill

- 1.3 The bill seeks to prohibit all new coal and gas mining and exploration in the Liverpool Plains.
- 1.4 Specifically, the bill achieves this by:
 - prohibiting the grant of new authorisations to mine or prospect for material under the *Mining Act 1992* on land in the Liverpool Plains
 - prohibiting the grant of new petroleum titles under the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* for petroleum mining operations on land in the Liverpool Plains
 - ensuring pending applications for authorisations or petroleum titles for land in the Liverpool Plains are taken to be refused, including applications for the renewal of expired petroleum titles
 - cancelling approved authorisations or petroleum titles for land in the Liverpool Plains if prospecting or mining operations have not commenced
 - providing that compensation is not payable by or on behalf of the state because of the prohibition.⁴
- 1.5 The bill defines the Liverpool Plains as the area comprising:
 - the local government area of Liverpool Plains Shire
 - the local government area of Gunnedah Shire
 - the town of Boggabri

² Selection of Bills Committee, NSW Legislative Council, *Report No. 47 – 11 May 2021*, p 2.

³ *Hansard*, NSW Legislative Council, 11 May 2021, pp 2-6 (Natasha Maclaren-Jones).

⁴ Explanatory Note, Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021, p 1.

- the town of Rocky Glen
- the town of Bomera
- the town of Premer.⁵

1.6 The Liverpool Plains area has been subject to several mining activities in recent decades. In April 2006 BHP Billiton, via Coal Mines Australia Ltd, was granted a five-year coal exploration licence covering 344 square kilometres around Carooona. In 2008, Shenhua was issued an exploration licence covering 195 square kilometres around Watermark.⁶ Progress on both projects has ceased amidst strong community opposition. Ongoing mining activities in the region include the Narrabri Gas Project and the Vickery Extension Project.

1.7 In her second reading speech, Ms Faehrmann noted the long-standing community opposition to mining activities in the Liverpool Plains. She explained that this stemmed from concerns regarding mining's potential impact on agriculture, Indigenous cultural heritage and biodiversity.⁷

1.8 Ms Faehrmann further noted the NSW Government's April 2021 decision to cancel the Shenhua Watermark project and a public comment by the Deputy Premier, the Hon John Barilaro MP, evincing an intention to end mining in the Liverpool Plains permanently.⁸ Ms Faehrmann explained that, following on from these developments, the bill would provide the legislative guarantee that no new coal and gas mining and exploration will be undertaken in the Liverpool Plains:

The cancellation and buying back of the Shenhua Watermark licence has of course been such an incredibly immense relief to the community, which has been fighting this for so long. But let us make sure that every party puts its money where its mouth is when talking about guaranteeing to the people of the Liverpool Plains that it will protect their area from coal and gas in the future. Let us do that with this bill.⁹

Current coal and gas policy

1.9 In its submission, the Department of Regional NSW referred the committee to the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW (Future of Coal Statement) and the Strategic Opportunities for Gas in Regional NSW Statement (Strategic Opportunities for Gas Statement) as formal articulations of the NSW Government policy direction.¹⁰

1.10 The Future of Coal Statement, released in June 2020, recognises that the world is transitioning to other forms of energy generation. The statement also recognises the corresponding need for

⁵ Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021, Schls 1 and 2.

⁶ *Hansard*, NSW Legislative Council, 5 May 2021, pp 12-16 (Cate Faehrmann).

⁷ *Hansard*, NSW Legislative Council, 5 May 2021, pp 12-16 (Cate Faehrmann).

⁸ *Hansard*, NSW Legislative Council, 5 May 2021, pp 14 (Cate Faehrmann).

⁹ *Hansard*, NSW Legislative Council, 5 May 2021, pp 14 (Cate Faehrmann).

¹⁰ Submission 8, Department of Regional NSW, p 1.

the NSW Government to manage the change over the coming decades by balancing the needs of businesses, jobs and communities.¹¹

- 1.11** Specifically, the Future of Coal Statement supports the diversification of coal-reliant regions in response to the expected long term decline in thermal coal mining. To this end, the statement rules out proactive release in certain coal regions in the state, and identifies other areas as being subject to a prohibition on coal mining.¹²
- 1.12** The Strategic Opportunities for Gas Statement recognises the need for gas over the coming decades, and confirms the NSW Government's commitment to ensuring a diverse energy mix, including a long-term gas supply.¹³
- 1.13** The Department of Regional NSW submitted that the policy framework allows for safe and environmentally responsive mining activities:

Where coal and gas projects are underway, the NSW Government's comprehensive regulatory framework delivers strong and certain controls to ensure safe and environmentally responsible resource exploration and production. Authorisations are subject to strict conditions, codes of practice, policies and regulatory requirements to ensure appropriate protections. These continue to apply where titles are being assessed for renewal.¹⁴

- 1.14** Subsequent to the information provided by the Department of Regional NSW, the NSW Government released the Future of Gas Statement in July 2021 (Future of Gas Statement). The Future of Gas Statement echoes the themes of the earlier Strategic Opportunities for Gas Statement.
- 1.15** While the Future of Gas Statement rules out gas production under most petroleum exploration licences in the Liverpool Plains, the licences supporting the Narrabri Gas Project have been exempted. In expressing its support for the Narrabri Gas Project, the NSW Government noted the project's potential to spur job creation and economic growth in the region:

This *Future of Gas* Statement outlines the NSW Government's balanced approach to securing gas supplies and working with industries to generate regional jobs and prosperity. This means backing the Narrabri Gas Project and investments in LNG import terminals, pipelines and gas-fired power generation, as well as continuing investigation of the Narrabri Special Activation Precinct to drive growth in the manufacturing sector. These investments are vital to ensuring we deliver the tools industry needs to spur job creation and economic growth.¹⁵

¹¹ Submission 8, Department of regional NSW, p 1.

¹² Submission 8, Department of regional NSW, p 1.

¹³ Submission 8, Department of regional NSW, p 2.

¹⁴ Submission 8, Department of regional NSW, p 2.

¹⁵ NSW Government, *Future of Gas Statement*, 21 July 2021, p 2.

Key issues

- 1.16** The committee received strongly opposing views on the bill and its proposed prohibition on all new coal and gas mining and exploration in the Liverpool Plains. This section will first explore the evidence of stakeholders who supported the bill. It will then examine the evidence received from the mining industry, which opposed the bill.

Arguments for the bill

- 1.17** Stakeholders who supported the bill noted the agricultural value of the Liverpool Plains and the region's value in terms of the environment and Indigenous heritage. Supporters of the bill also pointed out that the current legislative framework is contrary to the stated intention of the NSW Government as it leaves scope for future mining activity in the Liverpool Plains.

Agricultural value of the Liverpool Plains

- 1.18** The Caroon Coal Action Group, a community organisation formed in 2006 in response to coal exploration licences granted in its local region, highlighted to the committee the agricultural value of the Liverpool Plains and the potential adverse impacts to it from mining operations.¹⁶

- 1.19** Ms Susan Lyle, Chair of the Caroon Coal Action Group, referred the committee to a study conducted by Emeritus Professor Ian Acworth. Ms Lyle asserted that the study provides scientific evidence that any mining activity in the Liverpool Plains would have a disastrous impact on the agricultural capacity of the Liverpool Plains, commenting:

Had BHP and Shenhua Watermark been allowed to start mining it would have been perhaps the greatest environmental and economic agricultural disaster this country has seen.¹⁷

- 1.20** Ms Lyle further contended that the existing petroleum exploration licences cannot be exercised without contaminating the water of the Liverpool Plains.¹⁸ In its submission, the Caroon Coal Action Group also noted that neither the proponents of the Shenhua Watermark nor the NSW Government ever refuted Professor Acworth's findings.¹⁹

Need for legislative certainty

- 1.21** During the hearing, the committee discussed the Deputy Premier's public comment on ending any future mining activities in the Liverpool Plains.
- 1.22** When asked by the committee whether future coal seam gas development could occur in the region despite the buyback of Shenhua Watermark and the Deputy Premier's public assurance, Ms Lyle, as Chair of the Caroon Coal Action Group, confirmed that this is possible under the existing petroleum exploration licences.²⁰

¹⁶ Submission 1, Caroon Coal Action Group, p 1.

¹⁷ Evidence, Ms Susan Lyle, Chair, Caroon Coal Action Group, 6 July 2021, p 5.

¹⁸ Evidence, Ms Susan Lyle, Chair, Caroon Coal Action Group, 6 July 2021, p 12.

¹⁹ Submission 1, Caroon Coal Action Group, p 2.

²⁰ Evidence, Ms Susan Lyle, Chair, Caroon Coal Action Group, 6 July 2021, p 7.

1.23 Ms Lyle's evidence was supported by the evidence of Mr Andrew Abbey, Policy Director of the NSW Minerals Council, who stated that it is clear that mining is prohibited in some areas of the Liverpool Plains but permitted in others:

The strategic statement plays a fairly straight bat on where coal and coalmining cannot occur. Nowhere did I read in there that it is saying coalmining is prohibited on the Liverpool Plains...²¹

1.24 Regarding the prospect of future mining activity, Mr Graeme Norman, a board member of the Caroon Coal Action Group, noted that the agricultural industry has already 'experienced 13 years of doubt'. Mr Norman spoke about the anxiety and the indecision arising from the expired but not extinguished petroleum exploration licences, and described it as 'more than what the agricultural industry on the Liverpool Plains can expect to endure going forward'.²²

1.25 As noted above, subsequent to the committee's hearing, the NSW Government released the Future of Gas Statement in July 2021. While the statement ruled out gas production under most petroleum exploration licences in the Liverpool Plains, it maintained support for the Narrabri Gas Project, noting its potential for job creation and economic growth.

Responses to the online questionnaire

1.26 As part of the evidence-gathering process of the inquiry, an online questionnaire was launched to enable public participation in an efficient and accessible way.

1.27 An overwhelming majority of respondents were supportive of the bill, noting that the questionnaire was not intended as a statistically valid survey and that respondents self-selected in choosing to participate.²³

1.28 Several key themes emerged in the responses provided by the supporters of the bill, including the Liverpool Plains' rich agricultural value; the potential impact of mining on the Liverpool Plains' environment and communities; opposition to coal and gas mining in the context of climate change and the government's commitment to achieving net zero emissions; and the need to protect Indigenous heritage. For example, respondents told the committee:

- '... It is well known and well researched that the soils of the Liverpool Plains which sit above substantial and important aquifers are among the best and most productive in the world. Our farmers in Australia and on the Liverpool Plains are highly skilled practitioners and need the certainty required to produce the food and fibre we need. ... the gold of human survival into the future. Mining on highly productive agricultural soils is for short term gain only and is extremely risky in its high potential to interfere in a substantial way with ancient aquifers about which we know very little ...'.
- '... Mining leases need to be terminated to give farmers and farming families certainty into the future. After the debacle of Shenhua and its damage to farming families who were forced or felt they were forced to sell, the loss of farming expertise and the damaging social fallout, this law needs to be passed...'.

²¹ Evidence, Mr Andrew Abbey, Policy Director, NSW Minerals Council, 6 July 2021, p 3.

²² Evidence, Mr Graeme Norman, Board Member, Caroon Coal Action Group, 6 July 2021, p 7.

²³ Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry, *Online Questionnaire Report: Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021*, p 2.

- 'I support this bill and would like to see the prohibition extended to all of NSW in line with the net zero emissions target for NSW, in line with international commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement and in line with the International Energy Agency's advice that we cannot afford any new coal, oil or gas projects if we are to achieve global net zero and limit warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels'.
- 'As a Gamilaroi Father I strongly oppose the ongoing destruction of our water ways and scared sites due to greed and lack of vision for the cultural and food safety for other future generations'.²⁴

Arguments against the bill

1.29 Mining industry stakeholders who participated in the inquiry strongly opposed the bill. These stakeholders emphasised the importance of mining to the region and the state; noted the bill's incongruence with the existing regulatory framework; and contended that mining activity could successfully coexist with agriculture in the Liverpool Plains.

Mining's contribution to New South Wales

1.30 Several mining companies emphasised to the committee the industry's economic and social contributions to New South Wales.

1.31 Whitehaven Coal submitted that coal alone contributed \$15 billion to the NSW economy in 2019-20, providing 29,000 jobs and supporting 8,000 businesses in its supply chain. Whitehaven Coal noted the potential for these figures to be expanded, with 21 potential projects in NSW representing \$6.3 billion in capital investment and 10,000 jobs.²⁵

1.32 In its submission, Comet Ridge Limited explained the utility gained from the resources mined. For instance, it was submitted that gas accounts for 44 per cent of household energy use and that over half of the gas consumed in Australia is used towards creating essential products such as fertiliser, explosives, paper, plastics and chemicals.²⁶ Along similar lines, Santos explained that natural gas is used in firming renewable electricity and stabilising the electricity grid.²⁷ It was further put to the committee that natural gas has a key role to play in Australia's carbon emissions targets, with about 40 per cent of natural gas production to be used for zero-emissions hydrogen production in association with carbon capture and storage.²⁸

1.33 The committee also received evidence regarding the important role played by the mining industry in regional communities.

1.34 Whitehaven Coal noted that it had invested close to \$2 billion in North Western New South Wales. As the largest private employer in the region, it maintains a workforce of around 2,500 people, most of whom live in local communities. Whitehaven Coal also noted that it had spent

²⁴ Online questionnaire report: Inquiry into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021, pp 3-4.

²⁵ Submission 3, Whitehaven Coal, p 2.

²⁶ Submission 5, Comet Ridge Limited, p 1.

²⁷ Submission 4, Santos, p 1.

²⁸ Submission 4, Santos, p 1.

\$365.4 million with more than 300 local suppliers in 2019-20. The company further highlighted its programs to improve health, education and employment outcomes for the local Indigenous community.²⁹

- 1.35** The industry stakeholders claimed that a successful gas project in the Liverpool Plains would benefit the local community. Comet Ridge submitted:

A natural gas industry in the Narrabri region will mean many young people, who would normally have moved away to find a job, can now find skilled high paying jobs in the area where they grew up. In effect, a natural gas industry helps to keep extended families closer together. A natural gas industry may also encourage manufacturers to set up operations in the region, to minimise transport cost and to generate products (like fertiliser for example) closer to where they are utilised.³⁰

- 1.36** Santos also claimed that the completion of the Narrabri gas project would decrease the price of gas for its Sydney customers.³¹

Mining's potential for successful coexistence with agriculture

- 1.37** In response to the evidence that mining operations will negatively impact agriculture in the Liverpool Plains, Santos and Comet Ridge contended that the two industries could successfully coexist.

- 1.38** Santos used its operations in Queensland as an example of how mining and agriculture can work together in a mutually beneficial manner:

Santos, and Australia's wider oil and gas industry, has adapted over a decade of coal seam gas development in Queensland. Coal seam gas operations, such as Santos' Arcadia fields, are co-designed with landholders to ensure that operations work together with productive agricultural activities.

Partnerships that Santos has formed with landholders across Australia has allowed farm productivity improvements and provided a source of non weather-related revenue through land access agreements. Many landholders acknowledge that these additional farm revenues have effectively 'drought proofed' their operations.³²

- 1.39** Similarly, Comet Ridge submitted that the presence of mining can benefit regional communities and farmers in particular:

Farmers now have access to new supplies of treated water for irrigation, lifting productivity and farm incomes. In addition, many farms have family members that work in the resource industry, allowing them to stay involved on the farm during their time off. Without this, many would be forced to move away permanently.³³

²⁹ Submission 3, Whitehaven Coal, pp 3-4.

³⁰ Submission 5, Comet Ridge Limited, p 2.

³¹ Submission 4, Santos, p 2.

³² Submission 4, Santos, p 7.

³³ Submission 5, Comet Ridge Limited, pp 3-4.

- 1.40 Further, Santos noted that mining activity in close proximity to high-quality agricultural land is subject to extra scrutiny. For example, the NSW Government's Strategic Regional Land Use Policy introduces additional requirements for any mining or coal seam gas proposal on biophysical strategic agricultural land.³⁴

Current regulatory framework and the bill

- 1.41 Another issue raised by industry stakeholders' in opposing the bill was the alleged incongruence between the proposed prohibition and the existing regulatory framework.
- 1.42 Mr Andrew Abbey, Policy Director of the NSW Minerals Council, noted that the Future of Coal Statement aims to adopt a balanced approach that allows for coal exports while considering community concerns. Mr Abbey explained that, in terms of the Liverpool Plains, this means a cessation of any greenfield release areas for coal exploration, while still allowing licences to be issued for areas adjacent to existing coal operations and titles.³⁵
- 1.43 Mr Abbey contended that the bill's proposed prohibition on coal mining in the Liverpool Plains departs from the consistent state-wide rules provided by the Future of Coal Statement, and emphasised that the prohibition fails to consider existing investment, approvals or authorisations. Using the example of the Vickery Extension Project, Mr Abbey contended that the bill would impinge on lawfully obtained rights and obligations:

For example, we know the intention of the bill is designed to bring an end to the Vickery Extension Project, which has obtained a number of lawful approvals. ...

... It is understood – and it is our view – there are well-established principles of statutory interpretation that, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, legislation is assumed to not have retrospective application generally ... this is intended to make sure that the rights of people are impacted in accordance with the laws and provisions of the day and are reasonably protected.³⁶

- 1.44 Along similar lines, the Australian Petroleum Productions and Exploration Association noted that if passed, the bill could deter future investment. Noting the significance of overseas investors in Australian mining projects, the association pointed out that the bill could reverse relationships that 'Australian industry has spent a generation building'.³⁷

Committee comment

- 1.45 The committee acknowledges upfront that the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 has come forward in the context of longstanding community opposition to mining in the Liverpool Plains and the recent NSW Government decision to cancel the Shenhua Watermark project.
- 1.46 The committee recognises that some stakeholders, particularly the farming and Indigenous communities of the region, see this bill as offering a legislative guarantee to protect the

³⁴ Submission 4, Santos, pp 7-8.

³⁵ Evidence, Mr Andrew Abbey, Policy Director, NSW Minerals Council, 6 July 2021, p 2.

³⁶ Evidence, Mr Andrew Abbey, Policy Director, NSW Minerals Council, 6 July 2021, pp 2-3.

³⁷ Submission 6, APPEA, p 4.

agricultural value of the Liverpool Plains and the significant indigenous heritage areas within it. We also note the strong views expressed through the online questionnaire process, including on the issue of climate change.

- 1.47** On the other hand, the committee acknowledges that the bill prohibits and cancels rights and licences that mining companies have lawfully obtained, and seeks retrospective application in doing so. The committee also understands the significance of the mining industry to the state, and how it is often much more than just an employer in regional areas.
- 1.48** The committee notes that the purpose of the bill is contrary to the NSW Government's position as expressed in the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW and the most recent Future of Gas Statement.
- 1.49** While the committee did not receive a large number of submissions, we nevertheless thank all inquiry participants who have taken the time to voice their views during the conduct of the inquiry. The committee recommends that the bill proceed to debate in the Legislative Council, and that the concerns identified by stakeholders as set out in this report be addressed in the House.

Recommendation 1

That the Legislative Council proceed to debate the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021, and that the NSW Government address the committee comments and concerns identified by stakeholders as set out in this report, during debate in the House.

Appendix 1 Submissions

No.	Author
1	Caroona Coal Action Group Inc.
2	NSW Minerals Council
3	Whitehaven Coal
4	Santos Limited
5	Comet Ridge Limited
6	Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association
7	NSW Farmers' Association
8	Department of Regional NSW

Appendix 2 Witnesses at hearings*

Date	Witness	Position and Organisation
06 July 2021	Mr Andrew Abbey	Policy Director, NSW Minerals Council
Macquarie Room, Parliament House Sydney and by videoconference	Ms Susan Lyle	Chair, Caroon Coal Action Group
	Mr Graeme Norman	Committee Member, Caroon Coal Action Group
	Ms Georgina Woods	NSW Coordinator, Lock the Gate Alliance
	Ms Danica Leys	CEO, Country Women's Association of NSW
	Dr Madeline Taylor	Senior Lecturer, School of Law, University of Sydney
	Professor Tina Soliman Hunter	Professor of Law, School of Law, Macquarie University
	Cr Kiwa Fisher	Deputy Mayor, Upper Hunter Shire Council

* The committee held one public hearing, combining witnesses from this inquiry with witnesses for the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021 inquiry.

Appendix 3 Minutes

Minutes no. 40

Tuesday 18 May 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry

Room 1043, Parliament House, Sydney, 10.31 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair (via videoconference)*

Ms Boyd (participating for the duration of the inquiry into Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021)

Ms Cusack (*via videoconference*)

Mr Field (substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021) (*via videoconference*)

Mr Farraway (*via videoconference*)

Mr Poulos (substituting for Mr Amato for the duration of the inquiry into Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the inquiry into Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021)

Mr Veitch (*via videoconference*)

2. Apologies

Ms Faehrmann

Mr Primrose

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack: That draft minutes no. 39 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 11 May 2021 – Email from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC to the secretariat, requesting that she be a participating member on the inquiry into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021
- 13 May 2021 – Email from Ms Tess Vickery, Office of the Hon Emma Hurst MLC, Animal Justice Party to the secretariat, advising that Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC will be substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021, and that Mr Justin Field MLC will be substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021
- 14 May 2021 – Email from Ms Kaelee Abboud, Office of the Government Whip, advising that the Hon Peter Poulos MLC will be substituting for the Hon Lou Amato MLC for the duration of the inquiry into Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the inquiry into Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021).

5. Inquiry into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021

5.1 Terms of reference

The committee noted the following terms of reference referred by the House on 11 May 2021:

That:

- (a) the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 be referred to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry for inquiry and report,
- (b) the bill be referred to the committee at the conclusion of the mover's second reading speech,
- (c) the committee report by 12 August 2021.

5.2 Proposed timeline

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee adopt the following timeline for the administration of the inquiry:

- Tuesday 15 June 2021 – closing date for submissions
- Monday 5/Tuesday 6 July 2021 – one hearing day
- Friday 30 July 2021 – circulation of Chair's draft report
- Friday 6 August 2021 – report deliberative (to be held prior to the commencement of the first hearing for the timber industry inquiry)
- Thursday 12 August 2021 – tabling of report in the House.

5.3 Stakeholder list

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack: That the following stakeholders be invited to make a submission, with members to forward any additional stakeholders to the secretariat by Thursday 20 May 2021:

- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council
- Gunnedah Shire Council
- Santos
- Hunter Gas Pipeline
- Whitehaven Coal
- NSW Mineral Council
- NSW Farmers
- Lock the Gate – Gasfield Free
- Caroon Coal Action Group and SOS Liverpool Plains.

5.4 Submissions, online questionnaire and proformas

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack:

- That the committee accept submissions from nominated stakeholders and other interested parties, including individuals.
- That the committee conduct an online questionnaire, with a closing date of Tuesday 15 June 2021.
- That the questions for the online questionnaire be as follows:
 - What is your position on the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021? Select one of these options: support, support with amendments, oppose, neutral/undecided
 - In relation to the previous question, please explain your position on the bill (500 word text box)
 - Do you have any other comments on the bill (250 word text box)
- That the secretariat prepare a summary report of responses to the online questionnaire for publication on the website and use in the report, and that:
 - the committee agree to publication of the report via email, unless a member raises any concerns
 - individual responses be kept confidential on tabling
- That the committee not accept any proformas.

6. Inquiry into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021

6.1 Terms of reference

The committee noted the following terms of reference referred by the House on 11 May 2021:

That:

- (a) the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021 be referred to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry for inquiry and report,
- (b) the bill be referred to the committee at the conclusion of the mover's second reading speech,
- (c) the committee report by 12 August 2021.

6.2 Proposed timeline

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee adopt the following timeline for the administration of the inquiry:

- Tuesday 15 June 2021 – closing date for submissions
- Monday 5/Tuesday 6 July 2021 – one hearing day
- Friday 30 July 2021 – circulation of Chair's draft report
- Friday 6 August 2021 – report deliberative (to be held prior to the commencement of the first hearing for the timber industry inquiry)
- Thursday 12 August 2021 – tabling of report in the House.

6.3 Stakeholder list

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That the following stakeholders be invited to make a submission, with members to forward any additional stakeholders to the secretariat by Thursday 20 May 2021:

- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council
- Gunnedah Shire Council
- Moree Plains Shire Council
- Dubbo Council
- Comet Ridge
- Santos
- NSW Mineral Council
- NSW Farmers
- Lock the Gate – Gasfield Free
- Caroon Coal Action Group and SOS Liverpool Plains.

6.4 Submissions, online questionnaire and proformas

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack:

- That the committee accept submissions from nominated stakeholders and other interested parties, including individuals.
- That the committee conduct an online questionnaire, with a closing date of Tuesday 15 June 2021.
- That the questions for the online questionnaire be as follows:
 - What is your position on the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021? Select one of these options: support, support with amendments, oppose, neutral/undecided
 - In relation to the previous question, please explain your position on the bill (500 word text box)
 - Do you have any other comments on the bill (250 word text box)
- That the secretariat prepare a summary report of responses to the online questionnaire for publication on the website and use in the report, and that:
 - the committee agree to publication of the report via email, unless a member raises any concerns

- individual responses be kept confidential on tabling
- That the committee not accept any proformas.

6.5 Provision of documents to participating member

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That Ms Boyd, who has advised the committee that she intends to participate for the duration of the inquiry into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021, be provided with copies of meeting papers and unpublished submissions.

6.6 Briefing paper

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack: That the committee request a briefing paper from the Parliamentary Research Service on the process for issuing exploration licences, to be provided to the committee before the first hearing.

7. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10.42 am, *sine die*.

Shaza Barbar
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 41

Tuesday 6 July 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry

Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney and via videoconference at 9.41 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Ms Hurst, *Deputy Chair* (via videoconference, until 9.52 am)

Ms Faehrmann (substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021) (via videoconference, from 9.55 am until 11.30 am)

Mr Faraway (via videoconference)

Mr Field (substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry and the inquiry into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021) (via videoconference)

Mr Martin (via videoconference)

Mr Poulos (via videoconference)

Mr Primrose (via videoconference)

Mr Veitch (via videoconference)

Ms Boyd (participating for the duration of the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021) (via videoconference, from 9.50 am until 12.21pm)

2. Committee membership

The committee noted that the Hon Taylor Martin replaced the Hon Catherine Cusack on the committee from 20 May 2021; and the Hon Peter Poulos replaced the Hon Lou Amato on the committee from 20 May 2021.

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That draft minutes no. 40 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 26 March 2021 – Email from Ms Tess Vickery, Office of the Hon Emma Hurst, to secretariat, advising that Mr Field will be substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products
- 13 May 2021 – Letter from the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones, Government Whip, to secretariat, advising that Mr Poulos will be substituting for Mr Amato for the duration of the inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products
- 7 June 2021 – Email from the Hon Catherine Cusack to the committee, forwarding a copy of a public BAEconomics report provided to her for the purposes of the timber and forest products inquiry by a member of the public
- 13 June 2021 – Email from Mr Michael Ross to Chair, asking the committee to consider past private afforestation efforts as part of the timber and forest products inquiry and requesting an opportunity to provide further input
- 23 June 2021 – Correspondence from Mr Simon Moore, NSW Business Chamber, to the secretariat, attaching the report *Running on empty: How to keep NSW fuelled for the future*
- 30 June 2021 – Email from Mr Ashley Wells, Director – Government Relations, Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association to secretariat, declining the committee's invitation to attend the hearing for the inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021
- 30 June 2021 – Email from Ms Ksenya Belousova, Manager – Corporate, Government and Community Affairs, Whitehaven Coal to secretariat, declining the committee's invitation to attend the hearing for the inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021
- 30 June 2021 – Email from Mr Dale Aaskow, Chief Operating Officer, Comet Ridge Limited to secretariat, declining the committee's invitation to attend the hearing for the inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021
- 30 June 2021 – Email from Mr Keld Knudsen, Senior Government Affairs Adviser, Santos to secretariat, declining the committee's invitation to attend the hearing for the inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021, and offering to provide further written responses to additional questions from the committee
- 1 July 2021 – Email from Ms Harriet Whyte, Executive Director, Department of Regional New South Wales, declining the committee's invitation to attend the hearing for the inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021, and requesting that the department make a late submission.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2021-2022 – procedural resolutions

The committee noted the Budget Estimates timetable for 2021-2022 agreed to by the House, with hearings commencing at 9.30 am and concluding by 6.00 pm, for Portfolio Committee No. 4:

Date	Portfolio
Wednesday 18 August 2021	Agriculture and Western New South Wales (Marshall)
Friday 27 August 2021	Water, Property and Housing (Pavey)
Monday 30 August 2021	Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade (Barilaro)

5.1 Allocation of question time and total hearing time

The committee noted that under the Budget Estimates 2021-2022 resolution each portfolio, except The Legislature, will be examined concurrently by Opposition and Crossbench members only, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 5.45 pm, with an additional 15 minutes reserved for government questions for each of the morning and afternoon sessions.

5.2 Witness requests

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee invite the following witnesses:

Agriculture and Western New South Wales

- Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Department of Primary Industries
- Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
- Mr Darryl Quinlivan, NSW Agriculture Commissioner
- Mr David Witherdin, Chief Executive Officer, Local Land Services
- Dr John Tracey, Deputy Director General, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Department of Primary Industries
- Mr Sean Sloan, Deputy Director General, Fisheries, Department of Primary Industries
- Dr Kim Filmer, Chief Animal Welfare Officer, NSW Department of Primary Industries
- Ms Suzanne Robinson, Acting Director Animal Welfare, NSW Department of Primary Industries

Water, Property and Housing

- Mr Jim Betts, Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Dr Jim Bentley, Deputy Secretary, Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Prof Richard Bush, Crown Lands Commissioner, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Mr Andrew George, Acting Chief Executive Officer, WaterNSW
- Mr Roch Cheroux, Managing Director, Sydney Water
- Mr Darren Cleary, Managing Director, Hunter Water
- Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator
- Mr Michael Wright, Group Deputy Secretary, Housing and Property, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Ms Melanie Hawyes, Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Mr Michael Cassel, Chief Executive Officer, Land and Housing Corporation, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade

- Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
- Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, Department of Primary Industries
- Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, Commissioner, Resilience NSW
- Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Corporation
- Ms Kylie Bell, Executive Director, Industry, Trade and Investment, NSW Treasury
- Ms Georgina Beattie, Deputy Secretary, Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW
- Mr Chris Hanger, Deputy Secretary, Public Works Advisory and Regional Development Group, Department of Regional NSW.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That the committee not invite parliamentary secretaries to appear as a witness at the hearings.

5.3 Witness appearance time

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Hurst: That:

- the Minister appear from 9.30 am until 12.45 pm
- departmental staff appear from 9.30 am until 6.00 pm.

6. Inquiries into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021**6.1 Public submissions - Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021**

The committee noted that the following submissions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee: submission nos. 1-6.

6.2 Public submissions - Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021

The committee noted that the following submissions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee: submission nos. 1-3, 6-9, 12-18, 20-25.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee authorise the publication of submission no. 26.

6.3 Name suppressed submissions - Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee keep the name of the author confidential, as per the request of the author in submission nos. 5, 10, 11 and 19.

6.4 Confidential submission - Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee keep submission no. 4 confidential, as per the request of the author as it contains identifying information.

6.5 Online questionnaire reports

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee authorise the publication of the online questionnaire reports for the inquiries into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021 and the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021.

6.6 Briefing paper - Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021 Inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Poulos: That the committee keep confidential the briefing paper provided by the Parliamentary Research Service for the inquiry into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021.

6.7 Transcript corrections, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Faraway: That witnesses be requested to return transcript corrections, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within seven days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That members provide any written questions for Santos and Comet Ridge to the secretariat within two working days of circulation of the 6 July hearing transcript.

6.8 Briefing on virtual hearing proceedings

The Chair briefed members on virtual hearing arrangements.

6.9 Public hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the allocation of questions be left in the hands of the Chair.

Witnesses were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters.

The following witness was sworn and examined:

- Mr Andrew Abbey, Policy Director, NSW Minerals Council (via videoconference).

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Ms Susan Lyle, Chair, Caroon Coal Action Group (via videoconference)
- Mr Graeme Norman, Committee Member, Caroon Coal Action Group (via videoconference)
- Ms Georgina Woods, NSW Co-ordinator, Lock the Gate Alliance (via videoconference)
- Ms Danica Leys, Chief Executive Officer, Country Women's Association of NSW (via videoconference).

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined.

- Dr Madeline Taylor, Senior Lecturer, School of Law, Macquarie University (via videoconference)
- Professor Tina Soliman Hunter, Professor Law, School of Law, Macquarie University (via videoconference).

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witness was sworn and examined:

- Cr Kiwa Fisher, Deputy Mayor, Upper Hunter Shire Council (via videoconference).

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.21pm.

7. Inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry

7.1 Public submissions

The committee noted that the following submissions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee: submission nos: 1-6, 8, 10, 13-15, 17-20, 22-23, 26-28, 20-21, 33, 36-37, 40-41, 43- 51, 53-54, 56-61, 63-64, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 74-77, 81-87, 89-90, 94-96, 98, 100-104, 106-112, 114-118, 120, 122-134, 136-137, 139, 141-142, 144-152, 156-162, 167-168, 170-173, 187- 214, 216-217 and 219-225.

7.2 Name suppressed submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the committee keep the name of the author confidential, as per the request of the author in submission nos: 9, 11-12, 16, 21, 24, 29, 38-39, 42, 52, 62, 65-66, 71, 73, 78-80, 88, 91-93, 97, 99, 105, 113, 119, 121, 135, 138, 140, 143, 153, 155, 163-166, 169, 174-175, 176-185, 186 and 218.

7.3 Confidential submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That the committee keep submission nos. 7, 32, 34, 35, 55, 154, 165 and 215 confidential, as per the request of the author.

7.4 Pro formas

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That a sample of the pro forma and its variations be published on the inquiry website noting the number of responses received and that individual pro forma responses be kept confidential.

7.5 Witness list and site visits/regional hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Martin: That members agree to the proposed witness list and have until close of business Friday 9 July 2021 to make any further suggestions.

7.6 Site visits and regional hearings

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That members provide suggestions on possible locations to visit and stakeholders to engage for the inquiry's site visits and regional hearings by close of business Friday 9 July 2021, and that the secretariat compile and circulate these suggestions to the committee for further discussion.

8. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.42 pm.

Shaza Barbar / Joseph Cho

Committee Clerks

Draft minutes no. 42

Friday 6 August 2021

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry

Via videoconference, 10.05 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Mr Farraway

Mr Field (substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry and the inquiry into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021)

Mr Martin

Mr Poulos

Mr Primrose

Mr Veitch

Ms Boyd (participating for the duration of the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021)

2. Apologies

Ms Faehrmann (substituting for Ms Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021)

3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That draft minutes no. 41 be confirmed.

4. Inquiry into the long term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry

4.1 Revised committee activity dates

The committee noted that the hearings for the inquiry have been rescheduled due to the public health situation.

5. Inquiry into the Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021

5.1 Public submissions

The committee noted that the following submissions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee: submission nos. 7 and 8.

5.2 Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled 'Coal and Gas Legislation Amendment (Liverpool Plains Prohibition) Bill 2021', which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That:

- a) The draft report be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;
- b) The transcripts of evidence, submissions, responses to the online questionnaire, summary report of the online questionnaire and correspondence relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;
- c) Upon tabling, all unpublished attachments to submissions and individual responses to the online questionnaire be kept confidential by the committee;
- d) Upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, submissions and correspondence relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;
- e) The committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;
- f) The committee secretariat be authorised to update any committee comments where necessary to reflect changes to recommendations or new recommendations resolved by the committee;
- g) The report to be tabled on Thursday 12 August 2021.

6. Inquiry into the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021

6.1 Public submissions

The committee noted that the following submissions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee: submission nos. 27 and 28.

6.2 Answers to questions on notice

The committee noted that the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution establishing the inquiry:

- answers to questions on notice from Cr Kiwa Fisher, Deputy Mayor, Upper Hunter Shire Council, received 21 July 2021
- answers to questions on notice from Ms Georgina Woods, NSW Co-ordinator, Lock the Woods Alliance, received 22 July 2021.

6.3 Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled 'Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (Cancellation of Zombie Petroleum Exploration Licences) Bill 2021', which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That:

- a) The draft report be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;
- b) The transcripts of evidence, submissions, answers to questions on notice, responses to the online questionnaire, summary report of the online questionnaire and correspondence relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;
- c) Upon tabling, all unpublished attachments to submissions and individual responses to the online questionnaire be kept confidential by the committee;
- d) Upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, submissions, answers to questions on notice and correspondence relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;

- e) The committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;
- f) The committee secretariat be authorised to update any committee comments where necessary to reflect changes to recommendations or new recommendations resolved by the committee;
- g) The report to be tabled on Thursday 12 August 2021.

7. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10.08 pm, *sine die*.

Joseph Cho / Shaza Barbar
Committee Clerks

