

Monday, 3 December 2018

Independent Planning Commission NSW
 Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
 Sydney, NSW 2000

Whitehaven Coal - Vickery Extension Project

Dear Sir/Madam,

WesTrac NSW would like to register their support for the Vickery Extension Project (VEP).

When approved the VEP will develop into a highly valuable open cut coal mine, offering financial, community and environmental benefits for the local, state and federal environs.

WesTrac are the Caterpillar dealer for NSW and the ACT, and we directly employ over 1300 people in NSW, of whom approximately 1150 are employed outside the Sydney metropolitan area. Our workforce includes professional, trades and support staff, working in the mining and construction industries. We also have a large apprenticeship training program, helping develop the tradespeople of the future. The VEP project will result in an expansion of the WesTrac workforce, to provide onsite support, field service, workshops parts and administrative activities in Gunnedah, in addition to our other sites at Tamworth, Singleton and Newcastle.

Whitehaven are a major WesTrac customer and we have extensive engagement with them across their surface and underground operations in NSW. In addition to direct employment opportunities, WesTrac has continued to invest in high end technology to support Whitehaven and our other mining customers. In the last 12 months we have spent in excess of \$15m on capital equipment to expand our technical support capacity to our mining customers. Projects like Vickery provide us with the certainty to make these investments and provide ongoing skilled employment and training opportunities in regional NSW.

WesTrac also support the ongoing role of high quality thermal coals from NSW in meeting the demands of export markets for high quality coal, in the developed and developing economies across Asia.

Coal sourced from the VEP will be crucial in powering the High Efficiency Low Emission (HELE) power plants that are providing the necessary balance of affordable energy and low carbon emissions. WesTrac supports the move towards a low carbon future, and the VEP is a key step in the development of this low carbon future across Asia and Australia.

Yours Sincerely,



Greg Graham
 Chief Executive NSW/ACT

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