**Submission on Vickery Extension Project**

I support this proposal because in my mind it provides a triple bottom line benefit to this area and the Region by;

1. Environmental Benefit;

The proponents of this project, Whitehaven have proven through their actions that they operate sustainably and within their development stipulations. They have been especially good in relation to dust control which is very difficult in a drought like this.

Also, the area's of land which they have set aside and improved as off sets are making a significant contribution to the secure ongoing natural habitat. The area’s which are most beneficial are the ones forming linkages between other existing natural habitats to the east.

1. Social Benefit;

The significant contribution to Aboriginal employment in this area made by Whitehaven has led to some significant benefits to individuals and the community at large. This must be encouraged and the expanded project gives even more opportunities for Whitehaven to continue its pro-active approach.

The diversity of employment in an are is never more critical than in times of significant drought like now. The social benefits of having non-farm related employment are large. In the last 3 months I know as some people who have lost employment due to the drought and have achieved employment with contractors working with Whitehaven.

1. Economic Benefit;

Whitehaven have a preference for local employment and so a larger proportion of wages stay in this area than with most mining operations. So there is not only a social benefit of these local jobs but there is a significant spin off to other local businesses, such as Namoi Aviation who serve this area.

Ken Flower 18 Jan 2019