

Names: Vinnie Winsor

February 2019

Mr John Hann
Chair, Vickery IPC
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Re: Vickery Extension IPC

We are writing in support of Whitehaven's Vickery Extension project.

Since Whitehaven has been in the region, we have seen significant growth and development through employment and community support. As some of Whitehaven's mines set to close in the coming years, it is important to have projects like the Vickery Extension approved so we can continue to see the local communities in the region thrive.

Whitehaven has a very positive Indigenous Employment Program in place which has produced significant benefits for the local Indigenous communities. Should the Vickery Extension project be approved, the generation of 950 new jobs will ensure these employment programs can continue and provide long term benefits to the people and communities in the region.

The Vickery Extension Project will bring many benefits to the local region including employment opportunities for Indigenous people that may not otherwise be available. Employment in these communities allows workers to be able to fundamentally change their and their family's futures.

A positive outcome from the mine operations in the region has seen the return of residents who moved away to find work in and across Australia. This has meant workers are reunited with family and community supporting the development of stronger family support networks.

A diverse economy, especially during this time of drought, is essential to supporting not just miners but all the local businesses that rely on mining. If it not for mining, communities like Gunnedah, Boggabri and Narrabri would be doing it a lot tougher.

Successful mining project like the Vickery Extension Project contribute royalties to the state government, who in turn allocate funding from these projects into the development and provision of infrastructure and services including schools, hospitals and other essential public services.

Yours sincerely

