

12 February 2019

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

Dear Sir

**RE: Vickery Extension IPC**

I am writing in support of Whitehaven's Vickery Extension project.

I am recognised as a member of the aboriginal community, an Aboriginal Elder, a Traditional Owner, Centre Manager of Winanga-Li Aboriginal Child and Family Centre, a member of Red Chief Local Aboriginal Land Council, a life member of Awabakal Aboriginal Co-operative and a Life Member of Gunnedah Rugby League Football Club and I have had an extensive involvement in the Gunnedah community for many years.

Whitehaven has been operating in our region for many years. During this time, I have seen firsthand the increased growth, development, employment opportunities and community support that are a positive, direct result of the presence of Whitehaven operations. While some of the Whitehaven mines are set to close in the coming years it will be essential to have projects such as the Vickery Extension approved to ensure our local communities continue to sustain employment opportunities to keep families together.

Whitehaven's Indigenous Employment Program has been instrumental in providing long term employment opportunities for local indigenous communities. It has seen the return of families to the area, returning to their family, cultural heritage and community, supporting the development of stronger family support networks and significantly improved outcomes. These employment programs are keeping our young people together with their family, communities, culture and providing employment for future generations in our region.

Economic diversity in our community has been the shining 'light at the end of the tunnel' with our region experiencing drought, it has been through the presence of mining in the area that our local communities have been able to continue to provide employment and support the local economy. If mining was not present communities like Gunnedah, Boggabri and Narrabri would be experiencing even greater hardship.



Successful mining projects like the Vickery Extension Project contribute to the growth, development, infrastructure, services, schools, hospitals and other essential community services through their royalties to state government and community donations. These capital contributions have seen the establishment of improved rail, roads, medical facilities, employment and community service programs that have had a direct impact on improving the outcomes for the Indigenous and wider communities in our region.

I support and look forward to the ongoing presence of Whitehaven in our community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Griffiths", written in a cursive style.

**Wayne Griffiths**  
Centre Manager