12/2/19

To Whom It May Concern;

Re: Vickery Extension Project

I am writing to voice my concern and objection in relation to the above proposed project and to support the local communities who are in direct threat of being affected if it were to go ahead.

I manage a local agribusiness in Gunnedah NSW which services the Liverpool Plains and Namoi Valley areas within some of the most fertile and productive farmland in the World. The proposed area of this expansion, and those areas located within and around it is no exception.

Given the current disastrous drought conditions, water resources are now more than ever at the forefront of concern for the survival of our local agricultural industry. The Namoi Valley catchment has never been in a worst state of affairs, with Keepit Dam currently holding 0.5% capacity. To consider jeopardising these resources via mining, its operations, and repercussions (now and for future generations) is preposterous, not to mention irrevocable. Water security for this catchment and agriculture within it is critical.

Our business, like many others in our community relies and survives on agriculture. A vast number of our customers and their families are located and operate within the Vickery Extension area, others are situated a considerable distance away from it. Some are located as far west as Walgett NSW, over 300km’s from the proposed area. To think that both could be impacted in exactly the same way due to the consequences of this project is outrageous. The effects of this project will not only be felt locally, but state-wide.

When considering the approval this project, I ask you to cast aside a 25-year hole in the ground and preserve the agricultural industry for impending generations of future farming families and the businesses who’s livelihood relies directly upon them.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Hurley

Branch Manager

Delta Agribusiness

Gunnedah NSW