To whom it may concern.

I wish to express my support for the Vickery Extension Project (VEP). I live in a coal mining community and have seen the many benefits a project like this brings to the region. It provides direct jobs for the mine workers and many multiples of jobs for the support industries.

I have been involved in interviewing for mine positions and am taken aback at the desire for rural families to simply have “a steady wage” to provide some confidence and continuity to their lives. This steady wage without the high risk seasonal income from agriculture-only efforts facilitates the ability to secure loans and plan for a future. This ability to invest in the future has fundamental benefits for all in the community.

My family has been involved in coal mining for four generations and I have enjoyed the wonderful lifestyle of interesting work, mateship and high employment. My children and their peers are enjoying a similar lifestyle due to the work opportunities provided by a sustaining and community minded coal industry.

There may be arguments for the project based on large economic benefits to the state and nationally, but the real and personal benefits are for our younger generation and especially the youth which enjoy the opportunity to not only gain skills and employment, but stay in the supportive rural community they have grown up in.

The VEP is definitely in a long-term coal mining precinct and the area has been mined and successfully rehabilitated in the past.

I support the VEP proposal.

Regards David Lennard