



VICKERY EXTENSION PROJECT

13 December 2018

The chair of the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) panel considering the Vickery Extension Project has resigned from the case.

Professor Alice Clark this evening (Thursday 13 December 2018) advised IPC Chair, Professor Mary O’Kane AC, she was withdrawing from the panel “in the light of recent events and in the interests of the Commission”. (*Professor Clark’s resignation letter is available on the Commission’s website*).

Professor Clark earlier this week stood aside from a separate panel considering the United Wambo Open Cut Coal Mine project due to a conflict of interest.

Mr John Hann will replace Professor Clark as Chair of the reconstituted Panel for the Vickery project, which also includes Professor Chris Fell AM and Professor Garry Willgoose.

The initial stage of the multi-stage public hearing will proceed as planned in Gunnedah on Tuesday 18 December 2018.

“The Commission’s work is complex and often contentious, and I will do everything I can to ensure community confidence in the Commission’s decision-making processes is not lost,” Professor O’Kane said.

“A number of regrettable matters in recent days have highlighted the urgent need for Commission Members to reconsider how they identify personal interests when appointed to cases and resolve both actual and perceived conflicts.

“I will be reminding Commissioners to be extra vigilant about conflict of interest issues, and impressing on them that they must identify and disclose any conflicts of interest so that they can be appropriately managed quickly and effectively.”

(STATEMENT ENDS)