



---

Jacinta & Jason Mannion  
Mannion Drilling Pty Ltd

Secretariat Independent Planning Commission  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT VICKERY EXPANSION PROJECT (SSD 7480)**

As a representative of local companies Mannion Drilling and Ultrafleet, I wish to formally table my support for the future expansion of the Vickery Mine Project.

As a local entrepreneur, I believe that the sustained growth and prosperity of regional communities can only be secured when opportunities for sustainable meaningful employment, housing and supports including health and education are apparent. In a climate as unstable and fragile as ours, this can only be achieved by deliberately creating a diverse economy which, for the Gunnedah Shire community most certainly includes ethical, risk mitigated coal mining and recourse extraction projects.

After relocating to the Gunnedah Shire in 2011, I have witnessed firsthand the entrepreneurial spirit of the Gunnedah community and the opportunities presented to those who call Gunnedah home. The local coal industry, namely the expansion of the Whitehaven Mines in North West NSW (Maules Creek Project) has undeniably been a driving force in the success and growth of Mannion Drilling and Ultrafleet.

Our growth has subsequently provided significant employment opportunities to the local workforce (directly and indirectly), delivered core services, supports and opportunities to other local businesses and provided broader benefits to the Gunnedah community namely through sponsorship and donations.

Evidence of company growth and associated benefit to the community are identified herein:

**Mannion Drilling**

- Growth from 4 drill rigs employing 8 employees in 2011 to 9 drill rigs and employing a crew of 30 in 2018. Majority of the workforce are drawn from the local workforce market, however others requiring specialised skills have relocated to Gunnedah along with their spouses and families bringing further professional skillsets to the community



- Invested \$2 million in Gunnedah's industrial estate to establish a headquarters for operations including workshop and administration centre
- Supporters of local businesses to support business operations including contracting local trades to undertake development projects
- Provided internal pathways for career development and training that have widespread benefit to the community and provides career pathways for youth
- \$12,000 donated in sponsorship to the Gunnedah Shire community

#### Ultrafleet

- Growth from modest fleet of 4 vehicles in 2011 to a fleet of 70 servicing mining and agricultural operations in Narrabri, Gunnedah, Mudgee, Inverell, Hunter Valley and interstate
- Supporters of local businesses for all aspects of operations from vehicle procurement, servicing, repairs and maintenance
- Expanded workforce with the recruitment of 2 fulltime employees in the 2018/ 19 financial year from local workforce market
- \$7,000 donated in sponsorship to the Gunnedah Shire community

Whilst the growth trend of Mannion Drilling and Ultrafleet can unequivocally be directly linked with the expansion of the mining industry in the Gunnedah Basin, many local businesses, from car detailers to butchers, have indirectly benefited from the presence of mining as a player in our diverse economy - benefits that surpass the financial outcomes and are experienced on a broader social and cultural level.

In conclusion, I welcome the expansion of the Vickery Project and firmly believe that it has a part to play in ensuring the diverse, resilient and prosperous economy the people of the Gunnedah Shire have worked tirelessly to secure will continue for future generations to come.

Yours faithfully,

Jacinta Mannion  
Founder– Ultrafleet  
General Manager – Mannion Drilling