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IPC HEARING VICKERY 5 January 2019.

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners the Gomerioi people their elders past and present.

I thank the IPC for the opportunity to present at this hearing.

Tim Muldoon I support the Vickery Project

I have lived in Gunnedah for 29 years

Currently a WHC Employee

Prior to WHC worked as a senior manager at GSC 20 yrs.

Whilst at GSC economic development was part of my portfolio during which time several mines closed (Preston, Blackjack, and Vickery) along with the Gunnedah Abattoir. The population in GSC Area reduced from 13,255 in 1991, to 12,240 as per the 2016 census with an estimated GSC population in 2017 at 12,579.

Developments such as Vickery would provide a chance for employees from those mines that close in the future, to transfer to vickery mine and remain in the region.

Agriculture has always been an important contributor to the regional economy, however to maintain economic stability other industries, such as mining are necessary to create sufficient diversity for long term sustainability, particularly evident in the current drought.

All industries must co-exist in our regional community and operate within the regulatory requirements governing the various businesses.

My daughters did not have an opportunity for work that they were looking for when they finished school. Therefore left the area to do tertiary education and find employment.

The regrowth of mining has created opportunities for employment allowing more young people to stay in the region near their families such as my stepson, who was able to obtain a school based apprenticeship and remain living at home in Gunnedah.

Mining has also provided an additional opportunity for some farmers and small business owners to supplement their income, particularly during adverse climatic conditions

As some mines are approaching closure it is important for new projects such as Vickery to enable the economic and community rebuilding to continue.

Part of my current role with WHC incorporates the disbursement of discretionary donations to many organisations throughout the region. Over the last 12 months alone, WHC's discretionary donations amounted to \$445,309 focusing on health education and whole of community benefit, along with indigenous sporting representation at regional level and above. There were 113 groups assisted during this period.

Another function is property acquisitions. It is worthwhile mentioning the approval system caters for those identified affected properties who wish to relocate, can trigger the acquisition negotiation process. This option to trigger exists from the day of approval for the entire project. If agreement cannot be reached between the company and vendor, the vendor has the option to commence a formal process through the Director General, Department of Planning & Environment. The company will also discuss mitigation matters with those that do not wish to move. If property owners want to remain they can.

The properties that Whitehaven now are Licensed back to the agricultural sector, ensuring the productivity of these properties is maintained and providing opportunity for occupation of the houses.

I conclude by advising , not everyone has a job or business and the Vickery proposal will enable some of these people to gain employment, increase their quality of life, remain in and contribute more to the community.

For the future of the Northwest Region I urge people to support the approval of the Vickery project, in accordance with appropriate conditions of consent.

