

**06/07/2020**

**Independent Planning Commission**

**RE – Vickery Extension Project**

To Whom it may concern;

I'm writing on behalf of the Whitehaven Coal - Vickery extension public hearing in which I was unable to attend due to illness.

I support the Vickery Extension project and would like to convey my reasons for this determination to the commission. The following points are a brief on this position;

- **Economic Development and Sustainability**

The Gunnedah shire has, for many years endured through drought and hardship for various reasons including the closure of the local abattoir. To this point, mining has diversified the area away from the reliance on farming and associated industries to provide a stable foundation for jobs, investment and migration to the area. Mining has therefore contributed to the survival and development of not only the Gunnedah area but, the wider area's including Tamworth and Narrabri.

Sustainability of this sector (pillared by the Vickery extension project) will continue the support of local areas and provide jobs for the future of the towns kids who currently leave to pursue their dreams in other places closer to stable employment opportunities.

- **Local Business Support**

Mining projects in the area provide a rare opportunity for local business owners to take the risk to develop businesses in the Gunnedah area. Mining is a resource intensive process requiring multi discipline tasks simultaneously executed including electrical, mechanical and civil to efficiently achieve targets. This process gives people the opportunity to gain employment either directly or indirectly to the mines which equates to cash flow into the local business owners accounts and, in turn further investment and employment can ensue.

Local business can therefore develop further creating jobs in engineering, trades and sciences which would be otherwise non-existent.

- **Public Infrastructure Support**

Mining has provided a boost the Gunnedah areas investment inflows, this contributes to the local governments ability to upgrade public infrastructure including hospitals and schools.

- **Training**

Mining requires competent people to perform complex tasks which only come from training and skills development. Apprenticeships, graduates and trainees are tomorrows leaders and a majority employer in the mining sector. The local Gunnedah area is in its infancy in this area and the Vickery extension will only provide for further work in this space.

- Precedence

The Gunnedah area has a compliment of existing mining operations which are providing the above-mentioned gains in a responsible manner, adding to this portfolio is another positive for local people, families and businesses who have established in the area and want surety for their own and children's futures.

- Australian Company Investment

The Vickey extension project is an Australian Company undertaking. This type of investment should be endorsed at the highest levels of our parliament in order to stimulate more locally sponsored business activity. All taxes and proceeds are therefore to the benefit of our taxpayers which is unusual in a foreign owned corporate Australia.

- COVID 19

Unfortunately, we were subject to a world event like no other. We have provided massive benefits to our fellow country man and women. The mining sector has prevailed to the point that it critical to the country's future continuation regarding economic prosperity, in the short term we need large job creators to take up the challenge and this needs the support of our policy makers and decision makers. Each day is a new and hundreds of jobs are now gone, mining can assist in the reduction of hardship and provide a necessary income stream through jobs, taxes and royalties

My support is not biased, I am a second-generation electrical engineer who has been supported through life from mining as have my children. The Gunnedah area is prime for the synergies farming and mining can offer together, and we should all get behind this cause.

I must inform the reader that I also run a local business whose success is primarily from the mining sector however, we employ over 30 workers, all locals, including apprentices, aboriginals and skilled electrical workers.

Your Sincerely

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