

### ***Support for the Whitehaven Vickery Project***

I understand I can provide my support of Whitehaven's EIS submission to you directly. For clarity, my submission is in support of the Vickery Mine Project.

I unabashedly work and have done for the most of my career, directly within the Coal sector or in adjacent industries supporting this industry. Whitehaven has proven itself to be a reputable operator, a strong contributor to the local communities in which it operates and beyond these regions through the wider economic and societal focus of the business. I firmly believe Whitehaven takes its corporate social responsibilities seriously and is demonstrable through their action. The undertaking of their social, legal, regulatory and environmental responsibilities and well beyond these requirements at the most recent project, Maules Creek and before that, Narrabri are evidence in themselves of the track record.

Further, Whitehaven have through the investment, growth and commitments in North West NSW emerged as a strong advocate for a sustainable coal and energy future through cleaner, lower emissions production of base load power through production and consumption of high-quality thermal coal.

In review of the Vickery project scope and the EIS, I have no concerns that are not already addressed through proven and clear mitigations and controls. I particularly support the pragmatic approach Whitehaven has taken in its submission regarding mitigations in the areas of land use and stewardship, air, water, noise, societal aspects as well as cultural heritage.

With a continuing international demand for thermal coal for base load power generation, I would like to see the Vickery Project's continuance through to mining. The Whitehaven team have a strong track record and the capability to supply the lower emissions, higher quality product for which they are renowned.

The direct benefits for the communities surrounding the project including but not limited to the areas of employment, skills, supporting industries and services are real and numerous. The wider benefits of the project would sustain for the life of the operation and in some cases, where critical infrastructure is upgraded or constructed, well beyond. This investment in growing coal exports translates directly into growth in royalty revenues to government and economic benefits to NSW communities and the broader NSW and Australian communities

For these reasons I support the timely delivery of Vickery project. Should you require further clarifications regarding the drivers for this project I can be contacted via phone on 0413370079.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Johnson