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To whom it may concern,

Re: Vickery Mine Extension

Specialised Civil Services Pty Ltd supports the Vickery Mine Extension Project on the following basis:

- Increase/stabilisation of population numbers. Keeping our rural centres alive with employment opportunities, increased wages in the area which increases potential spending, community, schools, education, child care, hospitals, small business, and accessibility to support and services (ARIA Index). This helps to mitigate the rural decline due to the loss of agricultural and associated industries employment.
- Increased employment to the local region with residential roles. This brings families to the area or keeps families in the area that may otherwise need to leave to find employment. Young people both directly and indirectly are able to gain employment in their local area without necessarily having to leave their family or home town. This in turn secures the future of our rural centres that would otherwise be in decline. Rural resilience is increased and financial stability to rural areas improved.
- Increased benefit to the community via children attending schools, participating in sporting and community activities via memberships and participation. Service providers are able to remain in rural areas due to the stability of the population of the region. A far cry from many services cutting back or withdrawing from rural communities (e.g. banking) that do not have mining or similar industries to support their populations.
- Increased benefit to the economy via housing uptake, rentals, spending in local businesses, participation of local business in the mine project. Many local contractors and subcontractors benefit by providing services to local mine projects. This often enables them to employ trades, labourers, administration and others indirectly to the mine projects. Real estate business report health sales and rental figures in areas supported by mining or similar industries.
- Improved roads, services from the mine project in the way of infrastructure that not only accommodates the mine but in turn improves these services to the region. Clearly demonstrated by sealed all weather roads which lead to mines and benefits all those that live along those roads e.g. Harparary Road, Baan Baa. Installation of mobile phone towers which benefit the mine and in turn provide locals with improved services in those areas e.g. Baan Baa
- Support/funding from the mine project to community projects, causes and events. Donations, funding for community projects and events is always welcomed. Examples are sponsoring local horse racing, rugby clubs, donations to toy libraries, schools, funding to assist councils to build/upgrade community facilities such as swimming pools.

*"We ensure the **Health & Safety** of all our people, Protect the **Environment** in which we operate, Build **Quality** in everything we do"*

- Any environmental impact by mines is heavily regulated and closely monitored. In Australia we have some of the strictest laws in the world regarding environmental impact. The approval process is stringent, many laws, checks and balances must be addressed and successfully met before a project can be approved. Rehabilitation is compulsory to certain strict standards e.g. trees and other plantings that is evident on many mine sites to rehabilitate areas that have been mined. Some occurs on areas that have not been mined evident north of Boggabri with significant planting. Not only does this improve the environment, it lessens the carbon footprint and some areas planted were cleared for farming or other purposes in the first place – not mining!
- Should you happen to ask, yes, we do currently have a mine contract and have previously had one. Yes we have benefitted. How you may ask? We have been able to maintain our business locally, our children have in turn been able to be employed locally, we have been able to employ local people, a small number long term (and some of their children) and with a mine contract we have tripled our workforce. We shop locally, employ locals, support our local community and always operate safely ethically and with a conscience.