



Gunnedah Freight Centre and Fourways Haulage

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GUNNEDAH FREIGHT CENTRE AND FOURWAYS HAULAGE – VICKERY SUPPORT STATEMENT

Gunnedah Freight Centre and Fourways Haulage would like to express our support for the Vickery Expansion Project.

The project is expected to have a 25-year life of mine, and this will deliver many benefits to Gunnedah Freight Centre and Fourways Haulage.

Having already provided freight services to Whitehaven Coal for the past 10 years, Gunnedah Freight and Fourways have experienced many of these benefits and predicts that these will continue.

The benefits of our existing relationship with Whitehaven include:

- Significant growth to the business
- Generation of new jobs
- The Stripes Group of Companies has contributed \$2.3m in the last financial year to Payroll Tax and PAYG, this significant contribution to the NSW and Federal Governments would not have been possible without our relationship and ongoing contracts with Whitehaven
- Expansion of the range of freight services offered
- Addition of our own in-house fleet maintenance and mechanical services, including an experienced mechanic and an apprentice mechanic
- Our past and current freight contracts have promoted professional development and experience for our employees
- Expansion and upgrade of our fleet and freight handling facilities

The proposed Vickery Expansion Project construction phase and the decommissioning phase of the Gunnedah Coal Handling and Preparation Plant provides an opportunity for additional sales for Gunnedah Freight and Fourways, along with many benefits:

- Projected business growth
- The opportunity for further job opportunities
- Further, and projected increases in contributions to Payroll Tax and PAYG from the Stripes Group of Companies, with significant benefits to the State and Federal Governments in excess of \$2.3m per annum
- Stability for our workforce with additional freight contracts. Having opportunity for further freight contracts means that our workforce can continue to live and work locally which has significant benefits for family life. It also ensures that more of the family income stays in the local economy; and families can choose to enrol their children in the local schools, and participate fully in community life, social events and sport. This has enormous follow-on benefits to the local community and the economy
- Further Mechanical Apprenticeship opportunities

Gunnedah Freight Centre and Fourways Haulage supports Whitehaven's proposed Vickery Expansion Project and looks forward to the many benefits that will continue for our business, our employees and for the community in general.