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BOGGABRI NSW 2382

Director- Resource and Energy Assessments  
Department of Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

Dear Sir/ Madam

RE: Submission – Application SSD7480 Vickery Extension Project

At this time I am a community member on the Maules Creek Coal, Boggabri Coal and Tarrawonga Coal Community Consultative Committee's (CCC) as well as the Leard Forrest Environment Trust.

I am a member of the Namoi Regional Air Quality Advisory Committee and a past councillor on Narrabri Shire Council.

I would like to make a submission in regards to the above development proposal. The following are areas of concern and items to form part of the conditions of consent if the project is given approval.

**Air Quality** – The township of Boggabri is centrally located with Maules Creek, Boggabri Coal, and Tarrawonga Coal to the north east and the Vickery Coal mine to the south east. Being the closest town and most effected, it is imperative for the NRAQ monitoring program be expanded to include a monitoring station at Boggabri and be placed prior to construction for baseline data to be collected. As discussed at the last NRAQAC meeting, the monitor would be able to be included in the network and provide local residents with information and facts. I took away from the last meeting that the only reason a monitor has not been placed in Boggabri is financial, who will pay for the installation is the only reason apart from the statement at the first meeting, that there was not enough population in Boggabri therefore did not count, every persons quality of life is important whether it is 1 or 1,000,000. The request for a monitor is to the State Government to fund such monitor and not to ignore the community of Boggabri's concerns. This is not about the science but about the mental health and wellbeing of every resident in the mining precinct area. In 2016 a petition was undertaken in Boggabri for a regional dust monitoring system and for a monitor to be placed in Boggabri this was presented to the local member Kevin Humphries MP, with over 400 names and signatures.

**Water** – With Boggabri Coal increase in the amount of bores they now have and the problems this has caused nearby residents with bores becoming dry and having to cart water to their neighbours creates concerns for the water supply of the township of Boggabri with the new bore field less than



5km from the town water supply. Boggabri has never had problems with water supply and has been unaffected in dry conditions or droughts. There does not seem to be enough information as to the effect of all mining on Boggabri water supply, as to whether the hitting of an aquifer by Tarrawonga Coal and the effect combined with Maules Creek, Boggabri Coal, Tarrawonga and now the Vickery Project will have on the drawdown and levels of water supply to Boggabri and surrounding areas.

**Roads** – Braymount Road is a gravel road leading from Boggabri to Vickery mine, This road will become the main access road during the construction stage and through to the mining stage. This road requires an upgrade to a bitumen road. Many of the dust issues in past experience of construction relate to unsealed roads (Manilla/Rangari Road) and the use of Braymount Road causing not only dust issues but a safety issue with employees visibility limited and the road not able to withstand the increase of vehicle movements.

**Social and Economic Impacts** – In the Vickery Extension Project SIA, page 56 refers to the priorities of Narrabri and Gunnedah LGAs as outlined in the Regional Plan: namely: - continue to develop access and logistics infrastructure on appropriate sites to encourage new industry opportunities.

Page 112 4.5.5 Local and regional business opportunities: Reference is made to the support of local businesses the flow-on effects and benefits to the LGAs with ongoing growth. 4.4.3 Project-specific Social Management Strategies – VPAs and sponsorships and donations will include a focus on projects which support cohesion in Boggabri.

Furthermore in Section 5. Management strategies – ensure that opportunities associated with the project deliver long-term benefits for local communities – local business opportunities.

Table 5-2

SA7 – Support community cohesion and development. CA3 – Allocate funds for local infrastructure providers via VPAs and via Whitehaven’s sponsorships and donations.

All through the SIA references are made to the impact on Boggabri in the negative. In the consultation, it is noted on page 54, that some Gunnedah stakeholders expressed empathy with Boggabri as a community.

The above is the support for the following Proposal which was presented to the Vickery CCC at their last meeting.

The community of Boggabri request Whitehaven to fully develop land they own into an industrial precinct in Boggabri in order for new industries to build on.

This cost could be offset through the sale of these industrial blocks priced at cost value to encourage businesses to move to Boggabri.

The land own by Whitehaven does not form part of any environmental offsets.

There are two areas:

1. Kamilaroi Highway

2. Calooha Road

Both are suitable for development.

The development to form part of Whitehaven’s VPA. Please note that this is not an unusual proposal. Indeed, precedent for a project to be part of a VPA was set through Boggabri Coal’s VPA

which gave HACC services funds separate to Narrabri Shire. Or preferably be a condition of CONSENT.

The community of Boggabri request that the upgrade to the Boggabri Swimming pool be part of the VPA. This upgrade to cover a toddler's water park area and upgrade to changing and bathroom facilities.

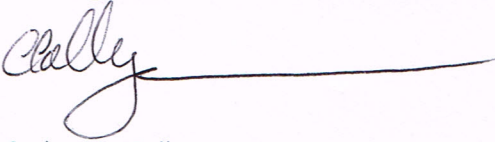
As yet the promised social and economic benefits from previous mining developments have not been realised, only the impacts of loss of rural families to our community, noise, dust, increase traffic, increased rental and house prices, reduction of rental availability to local residents.

I respectfully ask that you consider the above two proposals for the benefit of the township of Boggabri and surrounding area if the project receives approval.

I do **NOT** support the Vickery Extension Project.

If you have any questions please contact me on my mobile 0428674342 or by email [cathcollyer1@gmail.com](mailto:cathcollyer1@gmail.com).

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Catherine Collyer