



RED CHIEF LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

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23 October, 2018

Stephen O'Donoghue
Department of Planning NSW

Dear Sir,

Re: Vickery Extension Project

I am writing to you because I would appreciate your assistance to provide us with a 90 day extension or longer if possible, on the decision to be made in regard to the above mining project.

As the chairperson of Red Chief Local Aboriginal Lands Council I would like to inform you that the time frame to read the Vickery Extension Project's Environment Impact Statement is a massive undertaking with about 800 – 1000 pages in each volume of 5 volumes.

In past history with Whitehaven, it has been determined by some, that they do their own reports in regard to impact and cultural heritage, and they do not adhere to the principals of best practice that have been identified in relation to the first Nations Peoples of Australia.

As the traditional custodians of this nation, regardless of our identification of specific sites and circumstances, Whitehaven continually ignore their responsibilities in relation to cultural heritage as it is set out in the Burra Charter and the Policy's relating to Aboriginal Cultural heritage Valuations set out by the Office of Environment and Heritage.

In this instance my concerns stem from the lack of an approval for a rail spur for the mine, the lack of any consultation with the First Nations People's Knowledge Holders, within the Red Chief LALC's boundaries, and the appearance of putting the drive for full production before consultation and best practice.

I have been on the site that this concerns and I have seen with my own eyes - Scar trees - Stones set out like a bora ring as well as Numerous artefact's, as have others before me and at the same time that I was on that site.

I have not seen very much to support what I have seen in the little opportunity I have had to read the impact statement nor have I seen reference to the work done prior by Lance Symes, (work done for Whitehaven) and very little in relation to Sue Hudson, for Coal Works, both professionals in the field. In the impact statement that has been provided to the local community it was identified in Volume 3, Appendix G, Page 41, that she identified over 30 potential Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

sites on the proposed site, this is the only part of the reports that is in accord with what I know to be true.

For all of the above mentioned reasons, I would like to see an extension made on this decision and a best practise process be put in place which includes community consultation and ensuring that all other foundation requirements are addressed, including the approval for a rail spur.

I have taken the liberty of providing you with a copy of the Burra Charter 2013 and a brief guide to the Code of Practise for Investigation of Aboriginal Objects, for your information.

Yours sincerely



Mitchum Neave
Chairperson

27.10.2018