

Tuncurry

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HRMC NSW 2310

Port Macquarie:

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NSW 2428

25th October 2018

ATTN: Executive Director
Resource Assessments & Business Systems
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Number SSD 7480
GPO Box 39
Sydney
NSW 2001

Re: Submission in support of the proposed Vickery Extension Project

To Whom It May Concern,

Ditchfield Contracting Pty Ltd is a privately owned and operated civil and mining business based in NSW. Since 2013, Ditchfield has had an ongoing relationship with Whitehaven Coal, providing civil engineering and mining services.

Our involvement with Whitehaven and other mining companies in the Namoi area has allowed our company to maintain a presence in the region and contribute to the community in the following ways:

- Direct and indirect employment of local people – Ditchfield have employed a peak workforce of approximately 120 people during the construction of the Maules Creek Coal Mine, many of which are still engaged with the company. Since mining operations commenced, Ditchfield have also provided support operators to the mine.
- Engagement with other local businesses within the Namoi region – Ditchfield has always prioritised engagement with local businesses in the area, including; quarries, concrete suppliers, mechanical services providers, labour hire providers, safety suppliers, rural and agricultural suppliers, real estate agencies, local entertainment venues, cafes, and other local businesses.
- Engagement and employment more broadly within NSW – Our company has a number of offices based in NSW, the work performed for Whitehaven over the last 5 years has supported our employees in other areas of the state.

As the Managing Director of a medium sized private company that employs approximately 150 employees on an ongoing basis, I am proud of our achievements to date in the Namoi region at both a company and community level. I believe that the proposed Vickery Extension Project will provide a great support to the community and local businesses going forward, and for these reasons I support the Vickery Extension Project.

Regards,

Warren Ditchfield
Managing Director