

22 October 2018

Robert and Rosemary Cock
3455 Grain Valley Road Boggabri

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission- Application Number SSD 7480
Vickery Extension Project- Braymount Road, Gunnedah

We strongly object to the Whitehaven Vickery Extension (or Vickery Coal Pty Ltd as they are now working under) and the construction of the Rail spur across the Flood plain.

If the above proposal is approved it will have huge detrimental consequences on the Boggabri community and especially to numerous local farmers. We've lived on Woodgrain from 1980 to 1990, and on numerous occasions we lost crops owing to flooding of Collygra creek. Which contributed to our financial demise.

The development of the railway will cause huge and greater impacts of the flooding associated with the Namoi River, Collygra Creek and Deadman's Gully. This will have a direct effect on our old farm, as well as many other properties in the community. From my personal experience, my father and I were working down the paddock, confused as to what this great roaring sound was, soon to see a great amount of water heading towards us. As there was 7 inches of rain further up Collygra creek that night. Neighbours on the Western side of the railway line also experienced this roaring sound. The development of the railway will add to the huge mass and flow of flood water, making it unpredictable to prepare for such an event, especially as the EIS has no design for the railway. The Railway line will redirect greater amounts of flood water on to surrounding farm land. Another major concern is blockages in culverts, this is commonly seen across the floodplain, during both small and large floods. These blockages will be exacerbated because of minimum tillage farming techniques .

I now farm on the Cox's creek floodplain, I fear for the future as the approval of a railway line will set a precedent for the possible development of a railway on the Cox's creek floodplain. I also feel for the people who live closer the mine, as they are dealing with consequences of noise, dust and sleep disturbances from the mine, until it closes in 25 years time.

The most sensible approach for the Whitehaven would be to join up with the already existing railway, with Boggabri Coal, to the north.