

ATTN: DIRECTOR,

Vickery Ext Project

APPLICATION NO. SSD 7480

The Environmental Assessment Office
Resource & Energy Assessments

Gunnedoh

2380

11/10/18

Dear Mr Hawkerwood,

As nearby land holders, I thank you for the detail of the Vickery Extension Project, envisaged for the mine and state the following objections to same project.

- ① The mine has been presented to us as being for the production of ROM coal with no afore mention of gas as per your letter. Does this mean that the classification as "State Significant Development" would allow further future development of the entire MHA including the Rockglenn MHA & the Vickery State Forest would be already approved for the production of gas, when coal production has ceased, or suspended, for any reason?
- ② No answers were able to be given to myself and affected landholders at the Boggabri information session as to the capacity of the ten bore pumps drawing water from the zone in Upper Namoi groundwater source, nor the size of the connecting pipeline. A direct enquiry by myself to Whithaven Bayside was that the bores are intended to supply the ^{miners} entire needs, at times when the Namoi river cannot, as is the present situation.

The planned bores are at 400 metre spacings and with the supply pumps needing to be large, the

draw down of the aquifer in the surrounding area, would almost certainly result in stock and domestic as well as irrigation water being unavailable over a wide area. This statement is based on our own experience, when six boxes over a similar spacing, caused our stock and domestic bore, equipped with a windmill, to run out of water twice during the last summer irrigation season, resulting in very thirsty cows and garden.

- ③ As we and many others live about four kilometres west of the proposed mine and its CHPP and train loading area, noise and dust from the mine site should not be our major concern during day light hours, however at night during summer, we have blinds, curtains and windows open, to collect the reliable & cool breeze from the east, we are likely to get much more noise from the mine site itself to suffer during night, delivered by this breeze.

Glare from work site lighting from the mine which will be situated directly in front of our retirement home built for that purpose in 1993 after the old Vickery was declared closed, will be a major issue.

With the proposed reincarnation of and huge increase in size of the mine, our quiet, peaceful and pleasant view of the distant hills from our front verandah and lounge room, suddenly to be replaced by the lights and sights of the huge cancerous sore of your "State Significant Development" would be a huge

unwelcome disruption to our enjoyment of our chosen place to live out our retirement.

If this proposal does come to fruition, the glare could be reduced by facing work lights to the east, away from close houses and by providing over the top shading to stop the lights reflecting off the cloud of rising dust which is the inevitable result of coal mining activities.

Siding Springs observatory, in the Warrumbungle mountains, north west of Coonabarabran, were at first troubled by light reflection and requested these adjustments of spot field lighting in Coonabarabran, Baradine and Coonamble & any bright private light, a measure that fixed the glare problems with the telescopes by darkening the night sky. I feel that these measures should be a condition of any approval granted to Whitehaven.

④ The proposed spur line between Emerald Hill and the Mickeny mine is a major concern to us ~~ourselves~~ as it comes to within one kilometre of our house and with the alignment of the proposed tracks will be close to this distance, for a large part of the spur line from our property boundary.

Whitehaven's Bryan Cole estimates that the noise level from passing trains to be about 27 decibels.

I find it hard to believe that a train of some eighty two wagons, each loaded with sixty tonnes of coal, pulled by three large engines, over a

raised viaduct could be any where near such a quiet sound level. A neighbour stated to me that he registered the sound of a passing train on a flat at ground level and at a distance of four hundred and fifty metres, at over seventy decibels, a figure that sounds more likely.

Although Whitehaven declare no intention of continuing the Emerald Hill - Vickery rail spur to via their existing mines, to join up with their Lymn Gap - Maules Creek spur line, it would seem to me that this scenario is very likely to be the aim of the company as this would provide them with an open loop line, enabling trains to travel via Whitehaven's existing mines picking up part loads from each before topping up at Vickery & rejoining the main line at Emerald Hill without stopping. This would seem to me to be a cheap and very effective means of increasing their production many fold.

A good strategy for Whitehaven, but one that would result in many more trains at close time intervals over the viaduct near to our home.

The figure given for the intervals between loaded trains over the spur line, as per the proposal is one every three hours, but with the returning, trains having to use the viaduct to pick up these loads, the rail traffic doubles to one every hour and a half. ~~See~~ ~~the~~ train every one

and a half hours, day and night for the next twenty five years. Each of these trains is well over a kilometre in length and takes several minutes to pass, making the quiet intervals between trains even shorter.

My thoughts on the likelihood of Whitehaven, to, in the future, create the previously mentioned loop line, seems to be born out by dot point four of your letter where Whitehaven intend to prepare and handle thirteen million tonnes of coal per annum from Vickers and "Other Whitehaven Mining Operations" whilst only producing an average of seven point two million tonnes from Vickers.

How will the extra six point ^{eight million} tonnes to be handled by the Vickers CHPP get there, from where did it come and by which route will it find its way to Newcastle.

The site of the Vickers mine is an attack on Australia's heritage. It is the actual land scape where Doris Mackellar lived and inspired her to write that famous poem "My Country". A poem so well describing every thinking person and true Australian's feelings of our homeland and one so well thought of as to have become familiar to most of our countrymen.

Indeed Jannetah still celebrates with a national poetry competition & has a memorial statue of her in the surrounds of the swimming pool.

To have to live here and to be forced to witness this iconic landscape being ripped apart and sold overseas to satisfy the greed of not only the proponents, but also the N.S.W. Govt (very small) ^{consequential} with all of the previously mentioned ^{concerns}, is nothing short of horrendous and shows the absolute disrespect of our country's natural state by our so called government.

For ourselves having been recognised by yourselves as being nearby residents to the mine and spur line, I call for compensation to the extent of one dollar per tonne of coal passing over the spur line (for which ^{N.S.W. GOVT} you are the consenting authority) for the life of the spur line, to cover all things detrimental to our lives. (eg) quiet enjoyment, flooding risk, noise disruption to livestock ^{livestock} rearing, cancer, light glare, loss of landscape etc) as a ^{consequential} of the mine & spur line.

Surely the function of Govt is to be reasonable and fair to all concerned and should not consent to either the mine or the Micky Spur line.

~~the Micky Spur line~~