

BOGGABRI BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PROGRESS ASSCN.

PO BOX 53,

BOGGABRI NSW 2382

Director Resource and Energy Assessments

Dept. of Planning and environment

GPO BOX 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir or Madam,

The above association wishes to express our objection to the proposed extension of the Whitehaven owned Vickery Mine project. There will be little or no benefit to the community of Boggabri from this extension, rather we will have serious overload of our infrastructure and ongoing issues that are not being addressed, No one is being held accountable for these matters that are deeply affecting our community.

Submission points

Social impacts

- We believe Whitehaven coal has no social license within the Boggabri community.
- The closing of the Whitehaven office has had a detrimental effect on the Boggabri community.
- To rebuild the WHC social licence we believe in having an office in Boggabri to rebuild the relationship with the community.
- The EIS states 65 workers will come Boggabri. We currently have very little unemployment, so we can't see how the company can fulfil this commitment.
- Commitments and promises from Whitehaven coal projects still haven't been fulfilled.
- A community development officer for Boggabri to develop our businesses and community via VPA funding to assist in mitigating the impact of mining on the community.
- How is ongoing communication with Boggabri medical centre? The EIS states There will be no impact to local access to health services? They will work with Gunnedah for new services!! Our medical centre has invested money in training staff to conduct medicals for mining, which hasn't been supported
- EIS states the project will "tip the demand" for a childcare centre – condition of consent in the Vickery mine VPA, to which the community has not been made aware of.
- Throughout the social impact's assessment, it was made very clear there is already a very high level of distrust of the proponent, concerns for the likely impacts and scepticism of the models. The proponent spends considerable time explaining that the project was approved five years ago. Surely this would indicate ample time in which to consult with key people, build trust with them and explain in detail the project. And yet, the result of all that time is actually less trust and openness, not more. Furthermore, local community members have

firsthand experience from those impacted by the Maules Creek mine to learn from.

This should be a clear warning for the Department that this proponent has no interest and/or ability to build respectful relationships with the community.

- Pg 96 states that the project is not expected to impact on farming livelihoods. This is an outrageous statement made a number of times by the proponent. It goes on to state that it is all grazing country (Class 4 only). Whilst the proponent currently owns the land area on which the mine is to be built, they have deemed this to be not good quality agricultural land. However, areas that will fall under the compulsory acquisition zone are very good quality land (Class???) and will be impacted by the mine.
- This is in order to revitalise the town and attract families to the town. We would like to see growth of Boggabri which could involve VPA funding for industrial land to be developed and sold for fair prices to industries.
- There is very little referencing for Boggabri in this EIS also the reference to the Narrabri Shire council economic development strategy 2011, (5.5 Local Business Opportunities).

Air quality

- We don't believe this project can be approved before the sufficient management plans are available.
- The modelling produced for the Maules creek mine have proven to be inaccurate
- Boggabri is north west of the project protection of Boggabri from the dust with predominate winds from the south east, despite what WHC has stated that the Boggabri township to the west
- Community dust monitors will be required in Boggabri is the. Also, the current trains coming through Boggabri township.
- Cumulative effects In the Maules creek consent it stated that McGregor's property Callander being affected 12km south east of the project number -0138/ Cumulative affects in the Maules Creek coal consent, how can land holders or the Boggabri township not be accumulatively affected.
- Blast fume – there is no clarity of blast fume, of to which direction the fume. NB the predominate wind from the south /south east would mean landholders west/ north west of the project & Boggabri town
- We would request the blast and air quality management plans, before approval of the project. Which should reduce and minimize to ensure the air quality for our community.

Rail Loop

- Independent impact study on railway movements in and around Boggabri townships and surrounding private properties in and around the cumulative coal mines on the Boggabri community.

- Nowhere in the detail or model in the EIS of how it is designs / detail on the rail line crossing the flood plan.
- We need a long-term view of rail movements around Boggabri.
- Flooding, given the lack of transparency to date by WHC, we can't know what can happen with water /flooding if we haven't got a plan.
- We object to the proposed train line going straight across the Namoi floodplain. Any structure built In this area will concentrate and divert water flow increasing velocity and depth of water. The degree to which this will occur is a big question, made even more uncertain by the lack of detail about the structure in the EIS.
- Location of where the rail line is raised with aqua ducts and where it is on earthen embankments.
- The height of both earthen banks and raised lines across the whole line.
- The spacing between structures.
- There has been no local consultation with long term residents and farmers to seek local knowledge of flood plain and floods in the area.

Noise

- We object to this project until our community can see a noise management plan.
- The EIS on noise the extension projects mine 10mtpa is modelling 7db less than the 4.5mtpa mine.

Bore field

We believe consent shouldn't be granted until management plans are available

At a meeting with Brian Cole (Whitehaven) and the Boggabri and District Business and Community Assoc (13th August 2018) that was intended to update the community about the Vickery project, Brian excluded the fact that a new bore field would be established. There was high concern for the water impacts and Brian said the company did not need to buy any new licences to run Vickery and never once mentioned the new bore field. This is another example of the deceit to the community shown by the proponent.

- Added pressure of 10 additional 1meg bores in zone 4 both town bores are located within this zone. The risk of leaching and contamination of town drinking water increases. This increases the potential for impact on the quality and availability of town water supply.
- Should be 200m apart of 400m from neighbour's boundary
- Independent water panel for water taken from vickery and cumulative coal mines. Should include both aquifers – use of water from Maules creek aquifer will pull

water from alluvial aquifers i.e. vertical leakage from Namoi alluvium to underlying consolidated material of Maules Creek formation.

- Impact of surface water take and the release of contaminated surface water into the Namoi River system.
- We are aware that the told Boggabri Land holders held a meeting with the Land & Commissioner Jock Lawrie where he informed the farmers that he has a conflict of interest and don't see how he can be involved in the assessment and influence on this project.

Yours faithfully

John Shaw

President