

Our Ref: DOC18/819220

Rose-Anne Hawkeswood Senior Environmental Assessment Officer Resource & Energy Assessments Planning Services Department of Planning and Environment GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001

By email: Rose-Anne.Hawkeswood@planning.nsw.gov.au

Vickery Extension Project (SSD 7480): Adequacy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Rose-Anne,

I refer to the Department of Planning and Environment – Resources Assessments (DPE – Resources & Assessment) email dated 11 September 2018 inviting the Resources Regulator to provide a response to the Vickery Extension Project (SSD 7480).

The Vickery Coal Project is a yet to be constructed, open cut coal mine located in the Gunnedah Coalfield, approximately 25 kilometres north of Gunnedah.

The Vickery Extension Project proposes:

- Open cut mining of the coal reserves associated with the Vickery Coal Project and a physical extension to the footprint to gain access to additional run of mine (ROM) coal.
- An increase in ROM coal mining rate to an average of 7.2 Mtpa over the mine life, with a peak production of approximately 10 Mtpa.
- An increase in the footprint of waste rock emplacement areas.
- Construction and operation of the Project CHPP, train load-out facility and rail spur for the handling, processing and transport of mine coal, as well as coal from other Whitehaven mines.

The Resource Regulator has determined that sustainable rehabilitation outcomes can be achieved as a result of the project and that any identified risks or opportunities can be effectively regulated through the conditions of the mining authorities under the *Mining Act* 1992.

The Resources Regulator requests a review of the draft development consent conditions prior to finalisation and any granting of development consent.

For enquiries regarding this matter please contact me on 4063 6444 or minres.environment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

On behalf of Matthew Newton

Director Compliance Operations

Resources Regulator

NSW Department of Planning and Environment

26 October 2018