

Speaker Presentation

Geoff Hood

Vickery Extension Project Public Hearing

5th February 2019
Gunnedah Town Hall

Dear Panel

Thank you for coming to Gunnedah for community inputs for the proposed Vickery Extension Project of Whitehaven Coal. If the NSW Major Projects planning process, was being followed correctly, a citizen of Gunnedah like myself would not have to make an appearance at Public Hearing I am here to speak specifcally in relation to floodplain issues with the proposed project extensive rail spur, the rail spur associated with the extension of vickery coalmine. Floodplain issues have not been adequately dealt with at this point in time. It appears that Whitehaven Coal are seeing what they can get away with, before putting forward rail spur design and construction plans.

I draw on my experience as a farmer, as an agricultural contractor in Gunnedah Shire, operating three Lucerne farms in close proximity to Gunnedah, and as contractor on many farms between Carroll and Boggabri, over several thousand acres, extending to Cunnamulla in Queensland

Floodplain Management Committee

In relation to floodplan issues, I have peviously been a landholder representative along with several Gunnedah landholders, plus local government and NSW government departments that oversaw the Comprehensive "Carroll to Boggabri Floodplain Managment Plan", Note that the Carroll to Boggabri Floodplain Managment Plan, used MIKE 11 modelling and Airbourne Laser Scanning of the entire valley, We as a committee, used the best technology available at the time, ground truthed against numerous flood height reference marks across the valley for different floods

I note that WMA Water in their peer review on your behalf, of project flood modelling, have said that there is lack of clarity in the Rail Spur structure design, together with lack of information in the Environmental Impact Statement Rail spur design, of embankments, culverts and elevated railway on piers. WMA Water have stated that their needs to be further detailed reporting on several range of aspects

Gunnedah Shire

I note that Gunnedah Shire Council in their interview with yourselves, early December, is extremely concerned at the lack of clarity in the Environmental Impact Assessment of the rail spur design and impacts. Mr Groth said" insufficient information flooding", Mr Johns said "If we don't know how the rail spur is going to be built"

This lack of rail spur clarity would in part be a reason for the large number of presenters at this Public hearing

Narrabri Shire

Narrabri Shire council mentioned a "trust deficit" with the proponent in and around Boggabri/Gunnedah, this has been highened with rail spur deliberations, which is disappointing Indeed a former personal friend, former Landcare associate, Substansial Part Founder of Whitehaven Coal and Coalworks, The late Mr Chris Burgess would have ensured more clarity with floodplain consultants I am sure, lessening this trust deficit, he would have been disappointed with Whitehaven performance in this instance

Design Change - Not in EIS

I note there has been a very recent complete change of design with the proposed rail spur, without notification to those that made a submission to the Environmental Impact Assessment process???, ,

little design, little hydraulic and floodwater velocity assessment provided, or discussion with the community

I have been involved with two other state significant project's which are still current, which have been assessed against the "Carroll to Boggabri Floodplain Management Plan", Two extensive Solar Electricity Farms on the floodplain North East of Gunnedah, Both of these developments have had design changes and EIS submitters kept informed,(example provided) Are Whitehaven Coal trying to hide something???

Whitehaven's Mr Cole comment "IPC meeting with Proponent Transcript" 25 - 30 , "optimisation of a design and constructability has resulted in a decision being taken to elevate the section of the rail spur to the west of Namoi River all on piers",

Well show us, the community, neighbours, the shire councils. The new rail spur design parameters, a cross section of the floodplain, impacts on velocity of floodwater and afflux, erosion of piers modelled, coincident flooding modelled, Flood frequency analysis adequate and discussion of impacts against all Floodplain Management Criteria

Maybe the project EIS process should start again, a penalty applied to the developer for inadequate and misleading information to the community. A decision cannot be made on an inadequate Environmental Assessment for a development that is a 10 kilometre structure directly across a substantial Namoi River and tributaries floodplain

As a comparison

If I went to local government with a photo of a house that I was going to build on a floodplain, no design plans, asking for approval to construct, show you the plans when I am finished, I would quickly be shown the Door.

Yours faithfully
Geoff Hood

Geoff Margaret Hood

From: Diana Mitchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 November 2018 9:46 AM
Cc: Tatsiana Bandaruk
Subject: Orange Grove Solar (SSD 8882) - Amended DA and RTS

Good morning,

Overland Sun Farming Pty Ltd has submitted an Amended Development Application (DA) and Response to Submissions (RTS) for the Orange Grove Solar Farm (SSD 8882).

The Amended DA involves changes to the development, including revisions to the proposed infrastructure layout and development footprint.

The Amended DA and RTS are available on the Department's Major Projects website (http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8882).

The Department will now undertake a detailed assessment of the merits of the proposal. Once the assessment is complete, it will be referred to the Independent Planning Commission of NSW for a final decision.

Thank you and feel free to contact me to discuss.

Best Regards,

Diana Mitchell
A/Team Leader | Resource & Energy Assessments | Planning Services



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