

3 December, 2018

Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

Whitehaven Coal - Vickery Extension Project

Dear Sir/Madam,

Seven Group Holdings (SGH) would like to register our strong support for the Vickery Extension Project (VEP).

When approved the VEP will develop into a significant and valuable open cut coal mine, providing financial, community and environmental opportunities for a wide range of individuals and organisations at local, state and federal levels. This is an important project for the Gunnedah region and for the state of New South Wales.

SGH is a listed company (ASX:SVW) that owns WesTrac, Coates Hire and AllightSykes. SGH is also the major shareholder in Seven West Media and Beach Energy. The group directly employs more than 5000 people and through our investments close to 8000.

WesTrac are the Caterpillar dealer for NSW, and directly employ over 1300 people in NSW, of whom approximately 1150 are employed in regional areas. Our workforce includes professional, trades and support staff, supporting a wide range of customers in the mining and construction industries.

We also offer a large apprenticeship training program through our WesTrac Institute, which is a Registered Training Organisation. Coates Hire is Australia's largest equipment hire company with a national footprint of nearly 200 branches, including Gunnedah, Tamworth and Muswellbrook.

We are substantial investors into the Gunnedah region and the state of New South Wales. The VEP project is important to support the creation of multiple direct and indirect employment opportunities. Our businesses are one of the many employers who would make up the indirect opportunities.

In the last 12 months we have invested over \$15m on capital equipment to expand our technical support capacity to NSW mining customers, and providing increased employment opportunities in regional NSW. We have continued to expand our apprenticeship program and our January 2019 intake will see us increase our apprentice numbers to over 80 in NSW alone. Projects like Vickery provide us with the certainty to make these investments and provide ongoing skilled employment and training opportunities in regional NSW. These investments are to support the local industry and we feel this project is important should be supported.



SGH understands and supports the ongoing role of high quality thermal coals from NSW in meeting the demands of export markets for high quality coal, both in developed and developing economies across Asia. We believe that coal sourced from the VEP will be crucial in powering the High Efficiency Low Emission (HELE) power plants that will provide the necessary balance of affordable energy and low carbon emissions to improve energy security across Asia. SGH supports the move towards a low carbon future, and the VEP is a key step in the development of this future across Asia and Australia.

Yours Sincerely,



Ryan Stokes
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director
Seven Group Holdings.

