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Independent Planning Commission  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street  
**SYDNEY NSW 2000**

Monday, 13 January 2020

To the Chair,

On behalf of the ratepayers and residents of the Narrabri Shire Local Government Area, Council wishes to advise the Independent Planning Commission of current developments with respect to the Vickery Extension Project, including our consultation with the Boggabri community.

Over the last twelve months, members of the Independent Planning Commission have considered various aspects of the Vickery Extension Project. This includes social and economic impacts on nearby rural communities within the Narrabri Local Government Area, including the township of Boggabri. Despite earlier concerns regarding the speed and timing of consultation mechanisms as part of this multi-stage process, we commend the Independent Planning Commission for visiting the local communities that are most affected by the Vickery Extension Project and undertaking hearings in Boggabri. We hope that members of the Independent Planning Commission can incorporate the issues raised by the local rural community and residents of Boggabri into their recommendations to the Minister. This is to ensure that the Vickery Extension Project, if approved, can deliver social and economic benefits to communities such as Boggabri over the long-term.

As you will be aware, Narrabri Shire Council has engaged in negotiations relating to a Voluntary Planning Agreement as part of current and earlier iterations of the Vickery Mine site. At all times throughout this process, Council has engaged in good faith with the relevant project proponent to ensure that any development at the Vickery mine site is in the best interests of our residents and ratepayers. We also seek to represent the legitimate interests and concerns of the Boggabri community, which is likely to face the greatest social and economic impacts as a result of the Vickery Extension Project.

In consultation with the local community, Council have proposed proponent contributions towards the Swimming Pool, Community Meeting Spaces, Retirement Units, Streetscape and Showground Improvements in the town of Boggabri. This kind of community infrastructure is necessary for the community of Boggabri to cope with the impact of increased mining development which is likely to eventuate as a result of the Vickery Extension Project.



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Following a review of public interest considerations and relevant statutory requirements, Council staff have assessed the current Voluntary Planning Agreement offer from the Whitehaven Coal as not meeting "endorsed objectives" and "is not fair and reasonable considering the impacts of the mine on the local community."

In an effort to deliver a meaningful outcome to this process in a timely manner, Council resolved without dissent, to request an independent third party to mediate/arbitrate these outstanding issues. We have also written to the proponent and representatives of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to inform them of our current position.

In light of these recent developments, we respectfully ask the Independent Planning Commission to delay any further hearings or consultation relating to the social and economic benefits relating to Vickery Extension Project, until the Voluntary Planning Agreement with the proponent has been finalised. This will allow both the local Boggabri community and Narrabri Shire Council to make informed assessments as to whether or not the Project can deliver social and economic value for residents and ratepayers in this region.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact this office on 02 6799 6866.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Boyce", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Daniel Boyce**  
Executive Manager Planning & Environment



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