


Eric and Carol Hannan



Mr John Hann  
Chair Independent Planning Commission Panel - Vickery Coal Extension  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Cc: Prof Zada Lipman, Panel Member  
Prof Chris Fell AM, Panel Member  
David Way, Planning Officer  
Prof Mary O'Kane, AC, Chair

By Email: [ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Chair of the Independent Planning Commission for the Vickery Coal Project

We are the owners of land adjacent to the proposed Vickery Coal Mine extension. We have made submissions to the IPC and the Department of Planning about the mine. Naturally, we would prefer the mine not to go ahead as we have no doubt it will impact us significantly in many negative ways. We have no doubt we will suffer noise, dust, night lighting, visual, surface and ground water impacts from the mine.

To date we have had many meetings with representatives from Whitehaven Coal, in the order of a dozen meetings. During most of the meetings we have been told that we will not be affected by the mine and we were strongly and consistently advised that if we are to further any discussions with Whitehaven Coal, in relation to our options in the event the mine is approved, we would have to enter into a confidentiality agreement with them. We resisted this for a number of meetings. Then on a day that Carol returned from a six week stay in hospital, around June 2019, a Whitehaven Coal representative came to our home and we reluctantly, and now regrettably, entered into a confidentiality agreement. Since that time, we have had one further meeting with Whitehaven Coal, which was far from satisfactory and since that time we have heard absolutely nothing at all.

Our property and home is Lanreef Horse Agistment, we have been building this business and our home here for 24 years for our retirement. We lived and worked just across the River from Lanreef for 43 years, on Kurrumbede, the historically significant home of Dorothea McKellar, now owned by Whitehaven Coal. Like Dorothea, we love this Country and we have worked looking after it for most of our lives.

Like many other landholders, living with the threat of this mine hanging over our heads for the past 5 years has been awful. It has caused so much stress and many sleepless nights. It has taken over our lives. We live every minute with the real prospect that our home and everything we have worked so long for will be ruined and the place that we love and call home will become unlivable.


What now concerns and overwhelms us is the decision that will determine our fate and future is getting closer and we have no agreement in place with Whitehaven Coal. On the basis of our

experience over the years to date, we have a serious lack of trust that Whitehaven Coal will commit to a just outcome for us, particularly because all discussions we have had with Whitehaven Coal's representatives have been premised on their position that we will not be impacted and any discussions they have with us is some extension of good will.

We firmly believe that it would be unfair and unreasonable if Whitehaven Coal is by chance granted an approval before having a negotiated agreement in place with us. If this was to happen, we will be sentenced to an awful life, in the retirement that we have worked all of our lives for.

Your sincerely

Eric and Carol Hannan

  
13 March 2020