

26 March 2019

Chair - Independent Planning Commission NSW  
Attention: Professor Mary O’Kane  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Via email: [ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Professor O’Kane

**RE: VICKERY EXTENSION PROJECT – PRELIMINARY STAGE OF THE MULTI-STAGE PUBLIC HEARING**

Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) (on behalf of Vickery Coal Pty Ltd) recently provided the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for the Vickery Extension Project (the Project) with the following:

- Detailed responses to the points of interest identified by the IPC.
- Responses to the issues identified by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in its Preliminary Issues Report.
- Preliminary responses to submissions received from regulatory agencies following public exhibition of the Project Environmental Impact Statement.

This information has been provided to the IPC in the context of ‘other relevant information provided to the Commission during this stage of the public hearing’ (Item 3b. of the Minister’s request to the IPC for the Project dated 6 September 2018).

The Multi-stage Public Hearing process is novel and the extent of issue assessment and resolution undertaken by the IPC at this Preliminary Stage is still evolving. In its approach to preparing the written submissions referred to above, Whitehaven has sought to assist the IPC by providing detailed technical and other information to support the expeditious resolution of a number of issues at this Preliminary Stage. We consider this provides both the IPC and DPE with a strong basis upon which to focus on those residual issues of contention that require further evaluation.

We note the IPC has requested an extension to Tuesday 30 April 2019 to finalise its Issues Report and that DPE has agreed to this revised deadline. This extension follows the earlier deferral of the Vickery Extension Project Public Hearing(s) from December 2018 and the deferral of the Issues report from its original deadline of 30 January 2019. While we agree the Project must be evaluated thoroughly, such delays are disappointing. We therefore trust any further delays to the evaluation and assessment process are avoided.

Should the IPC require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Brian Cole (Executive General Manager, Projects Delivery) via [BCole@whitehavencoal.com.au](mailto:BCole@whitehavencoal.com.au) or (02) 6741 9333.

Yours sincerely



Paul Flynn  
**Managing Director and CEO**