

Jennifer Darley

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12 April 2019

To the Commissioners,

Today, Friday 12 April I attended the IPC Public Meeting for the Boggabri Coal Modification 7 at the Golf Club in Boggabri.

I was fortunate enough to speak with a senior staff member of Boggabri Coal and I asked this question,

“Did Boggabri Coal have any conflict or bad communication with Whitehaven Coal?”

He was stunned by the question and continued to say that in his 5 years working experience in the region he could not remember one occasion where they had problems or disagreements with Whitehaven Coal. He then continued to say that they work together where possible and he gave a really good example where Boggabri Coal actually pumped water through their pipes for them because they needed assistance with their water supply.

During his presentation, he outlined common property the companies use, which is a wildlife corridor of a remnant virgin forest. We have been told on numerous occasions by Whitehaven employees and it was also presented at the Boggabri Public hearing in February this year that communication with Boggabri Coal and Idemitsu was difficult and they would not be given passage through the north for the proposed railway spur. This has been their main reason for their push and promotion of the railway spur to the West even though it is most controversial to be traversing across the flood plain and major interruption to several families in the process.

We have recently sent photographs and videos (posted April 2) of the recent floods in our region after only one down pour of rain, 78ml and this only reinforces our objection to the railway being conveniently designed by Whitehaven to the West!!

The limitations on the total tonnage that can be railed through the existing river crossing is also underestimated by Whitehaven to try and make their rail spur option the only possible alternative. Single line sections of the existing rail line to Newcastle carry all of the coal from existing Gunnedah Basin Coal Mines plus passenger and freight trains. This shows that many more tonnes can be transported across the existing river crossing.

It seems obvious that we all have been misled by Whitehaven Coal and their main reason to push forward with their rail spur proposal is that over the life time of the mine it is a financial benefit to them.

Their decision is based solely on financial gains and not environmental and definitely not social.

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