

Professor Mary O'Kane AC
Chair
Independent Planning Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Professor O'Kane

Vickery Extension Project (SSD 7480)

I refer to the request from the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning asking the Independent Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing into the carrying out of the Vickery Extension Project.

The Department has prepared a Preliminary Issues Report for the Vickery Extension Project to assist the Commission in conducting the public hearing (see attached).

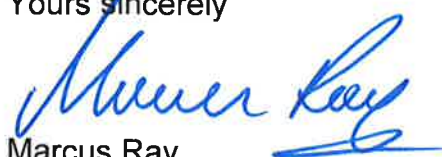
During the exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project, the Department received a total of 560 public submissions. The Department also received advice from 14 government agencies, including from 3 local councils.

The majority (62%) of the public submissions supported the project due to the economic and employment benefits associated with mining in the region. Submissions objecting to the project (36%) raised concerns about flood impacts, groundwater and surface water impacts, amenity issues (noise, air quality, lighting and visual impacts), social impacts, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, heritage and a range of other matters.

In preparing its Preliminary Issues Report, the Department held a community information session in Boggabri and consulted with local landowners, councils and community groups. The Department also engaged 4 experts to provide advice on the flood, groundwater, surface water and economic assessments. The preliminary advice from these experts is attached to the Department's report.

I understand that the Department will be briefing the Commission on the project on the 6 December and will be presenting at the public hearing on the 18 December 2018. In the meantime, if you require any further assistance on this matter, please contact Mr Mike Young, A/ Executive Director Resource Assessments and Compliance, on 0407 379 432 or mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Marcus Ray
**Deputy Secretary
Planning Services**

30/11/2018