



This site inspection is part of the review process.	
Date: 19 December 2018	Time: 10:30
Project: Vickery Extension Project (SSD 7480)	
Meeting Place: Gunnedah Town Hall	
Attendees: IPCN Members: John Hann (Chair), Professor Chris Fell and Professor Gary Willgoose IPCN Secretariat: Matthew Todd-Jones (A/Team Leader) and David Way (Senior Planning Officer) Whitehaven Limited (the Applicant) Brian Cole (EGM Project Delivery Whitehaven), Bob Sutherland (Aboriginal Community Relations Officer, Whitehaven) and Carmen Pantlin (Senior Legal Counsel, Whitehaven) Community Representatives: James Barlow (Boggabri Farming and Community Group), Mick Collins (NSW Farmers Federations), Sally Hunter (Lock the Gate) Grant McIlveen (Vickery Coal Project Community Consultative Committee), Mitchum Neave (Red Chief Local Aboriginal Land Council) and Stacey Cooke (Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce)	
Meeting Purpose: For the Commission to familiarise itself with the context and layout of the Vickery Extension Project and surrounding land.	
Agenda and Principle Site Inspection Stops: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions and safety briefing• Itinerary for the day for the day provided. A map inclusive of key aspects and an itinerary / list of points of interest were provided to all attendees and published on the Commission's website.• Travel from Gunnedah to proposed rail crossing on Blue Vale Road<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identified the several key aspects in town, including Australia Rail and Track Corporation (ARTC) Offices, livestock sale yard and the Whitehaven coal handling and processing plant (CHPP). Questions and discussion on the operation and management of the CHPP, including staffing levels, current operational capacity and sediment control measures. Coal trucks transporting coal to the CHPP observed.• Stop 1: Rail crossing of the Kamilaroi Highway<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The approximate location of the rail spur was identified and described as largely being consistent with the design of the rail line used for the Maules Creek mine. The rail was identified as being elevated over the Namoi River and Kamilaroi Highway.- Questions and discussion on the location of some of the mapped waterways, the extent of the flood plain and how often the area is inundated. It was noted that the flood plain was well regulated to minimise impacts to flood patterns.• Stop 2: Mirrabinda Property<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Joined by Errol Daley, Warwick Giblin and Grant McIlveen.- Context of the property in relation to the Vickery Coal Mine, with the Mirrabinda boundary identified on Figure 1-4 from the Project EIS.- Questions and discussion surrounding the improvement to the farm in relation to water efficiency.- Questions and discussion regarding what the Boggabri Farming and Community Group considered to be the principle impacts of the Vickery Extension Project to their properties. The BFCG identified uncertainty around the assessment of impacts, specifically noise and dust and impacts to ground and surface water as the primary concerns. The BFCG also identified broader concerns regarding contributions to climate change and a lack of procedural fairness and transparency in relation to the extension.- View of second residential dwelling on the Mirrabinda, with discussion on the proximity to the project boundary and	



comparisons with recent flood levels.

- Photographs of the 2008 flood levels, and newspaper article were provided to the Commission. These documents have been published on the Commission's website.
- Travel to Boggabri Township, including a drive through the Civeo worker camp.
 - Questions and discussion regarding the occupancy of the facility and availability of the camp facilities to Boggabri residents as well as non-mine workers. Whitehaven confirmed that the camp was independently owned and operated, but the understanding was that the camp facilities were available to local residents and non-mine workers could seek accommodation.
- Travel to and stop at Maules Creek Rail Crossing
 - Design of rail crossing noted as being similar, with elevated sections over the Namoi River flood plain.
- Stop 3: Elevated View of Vickery Site
 - A contextual discussion on the placement of the major components of the approved Vickery Coal Project, the Vickery Extension Project and the Blue Vale void. The discussion included the function and expectation of the project rehabilitation, including final landform, land use, residual voids and the location & function of the proposed bore field.
 - Questions and discussion regarding the current rehabilitation of the historic mining operations on the site. Areas of previous rehabilitation broadly identified, with confirmation that these areas would need to be re-disturbed as part of the Approved Vickery Project.
- Travel from Vickery Mine towards Gunnedah
 - Haulage roads for current operations identified, with travel to proposed site of the CHPP. Location of the proposed CHPP and associated connection to the rail spur were identified, with confirmation that the sediment management dams for the CHPP were yet to be finalised.
 - Question and discussions regarding the consideration of a coal conveyor, with confirmation that this option was considered, though was found to be impractical.
 - Location of approved highway overpass and discussion of the haulage volumes which would require the construction of the overpass.
- Site Inspection Closes

Meeting closed at: 15:00