



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO SPEAK AT VICKERY PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING - ATTACHMENT

Leard Forest Research Node was formed in January 2015. LFRN is a Citizen Science group which conducts field research into noise and dust pollution and biodiversity of the Leard Forest and surrounding region. LFRN has prepared numerous detailed submissions on the aforementioned subjects and has presented to Narrabri Shire Council, and we have co-presented with the NSW EPA on dust pollution in the area. The dust research conducted by LFRN in Maules Creek and Boggabri was presented at the Australian Citizen Science Conference, Adelaide, in February 2018, and received an award for the Best PhD candidate presentation at Conference. LFRN has made a submission objecting to the Vickery Extension Project, however the subject matter to be addressed at the Public Hearing would be in addition, raising new matters arising from:

- (1) the Preliminary Issues Report,
- (2) the testimony of the Applicant at the 6th December hearing to the IPC,
- (3) the testimony of the Dept of Planning to the IPC,
- (4) the submission of the OEHL, and
- (5) the submission of the EPA.

The subject matter of the proposed address to the Public Hearing will be predominantly on noise pollution, with some reference to the social impact of noise on affected communities, being that social impact includes the subject area of human health.

Observations about dust pollution arising from the Leard Forest mine precinct will also be a minor subject, some pertinent observations from field studies to date will be presented which go

towards showing the inadequacy of current coal mine approval conditions to achieve a satisfactory outcome for human health in the area, and the failure of existing compliance monitoring schemes to achieve a reliable system of reporting.

Finally, there will be a few short comments about the risk to the koala population and attention drawn to regional impacts of the Vickery coal hub, in particular the connectivity with other known koala habitat.

Our group requests the opportunity to use a Powerpoint presentation on the day.

Preferred venue: Being based in Maules Creek and being an active member of the Narrabri-Boggabri community, Boggabri is our preferred venue for providing evidence to the Panel. However, if Gunnedah is the only option, this opportunity would also be welcome.

As to the request for 30 minutes in which to provide evidence to the Panel, this is considered reasonable given the fact that it will not be duplicating the evidence of other speakers and provides unique insights to the Panel. It is very likely that the Panel members would have questions.

Representing Leard Forest Research Node would be Anna Christie, B Juris LLB (UNSW) Master of Public Affairs (USyd), M Env Law (USyd), a team leader from the group. Anna is an experienced researcher with 5 years of experience in the Namoi Valley/Narrabri region and also an Environmental Representative on two coal mine Community Consultative Committees in the area.