



RED CHIEF LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

14 January 2019

To whom it may concern,

I, Mitchum Neave, Chairperson of the Red Chief Lands Council, the statutory role of the Lands council is to protect Aboriginal culture and heritage, I declare that this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Firstly I would like to start with recently ^{ONE} ~~some~~ selected panels had withdrawn because of conflict of interest. I hope today that everyone involved with Whitehaven Coal and ^{THE} ~~the~~ Victory extension, have declared their precocity interest as well as their conflict of interest in White Haven Mining. I would like to declare my conflict of interest, as my daughter has recently started working with white haven coal. ^{as we heard payments are being made.}

Without any payments

I begin with a Newcastle (Herald) paper article dated Nov-Dec 2018 that people were wanting an investigation into dept. of planning (you can read this on the below link).

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5801266/there-are-problems-at-the-coalface/>

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5800795/department-used-me-up-and-then-spat-me-out-fourth-whistleblower/>

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5767872/icac-vote-on-department-of-planning-corruption-allegations/>

Also Captured on the ABC sometime in October Titled Coal production, stating "Study Warns Nsw Coal Exports Are Under Threat".

Approx. 6-7 years ago, I walked on Victory with other RAPS and we found stone arrangements, scared trees, Knapping sites, stone tools in a dry creek bank. When I asked White Haven at the end of 2018 about these sites there response to me was "no records found from White Haven".

So 6-7 years ago White Haven Mining hired an Archaeological team under the leadership of Lance Stein. When in fact he was **not** qualified at all, to my memory White Haven removed them and hired

another team and also removed them?, Why because to my understanding it was because their report did not favour Whitehaven Coal.

So where is Lance Stein's (who worked for Kayandel Archaeological Services) Report for 2011-2012?

Also Brian Cole stated at the beginning the Rail spur corridor has been surveyed. After a lengthy discussion, Brian admitted that it in fact this has not been surveyed (walked on with RAPS). With this information, it's a clear picture that their reports are not correct. How can a Department Of Planning And Environment Minister approve a project where the Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Assessment has never been done?

As the First Nations people are sick of Government Departments and industries pushing their agenda without meeting their protocols for their approvals such as, doing their Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage value assessment involving/engaging the whole Aboriginal community (instead they bring outsiders in to tick their boxes, also in saying that, they only select a handful of local Aboriginals).

This should not be approved because they have failed:

- Their Aboriginal value and assessment prior to the approval, it is in the department planning key issues before any approval is met.

For everyone's information, there is a TSR (travelling stock route) within their lease area, but no TSR corridors leading to and from it, so where are they??

Whitehaven engaged an organisation to do a social impact (on Gunnedah). People living within this community are struggling with prices of rents, food, and fuel just to name a few. Whitehaven reports show that everything is fine, which really it is not when you look at the bigger picture:

- Brian Cole stated that there is going to be an influx of 4-6 hundred people
- Gunnedah does not have enough water resources
- Is the sewage work able to up hold the higher impact of more people in the community
- Is Keepit Dam going to handle the an extra mine (it's already at 0.03%)
- Keepit Dam was built for irrigation for the farmers and rec use for community.

White Haven is misleading with their report:

- Social impact is incorrect
- Do they own all the land? No they don't
- When asked about the water drain off out at the washery, they stated "probably have dams", which in fact there is none
- Rail spur incomplete, no RAPS survey was done. How can they seek approval?
- How come the original RAPS where not engaged from 2010-2011
- When asked "biodiversity off set is it like for like" , Brian Cole stated "it's only plain grass", my understanding of plain grass is that some of that species is listed as protected
- White Haven Coal Mine have got a bad habit of putting animal corridor doors in and then removing them later
- Once they get approval they seek amendment from department of planning to adjust their already approved approval, why is that so? Shouldn't it be right from the start?

- Here are some photos of Keepit Dam taken in Dec 2018, 60yrs of my life never been this low, it will take I think at least 5yrs for the fish to come back
- All mines and industry have an obligation to protect the environment, but this is not a ticket to impact on the rest of the environment surroundings, upstream and downstream, above ground and underground water resources
 - All mining plus industry should be made to do the Aboriginal culture and value assignment before any approval is granted
 - The dam and this region cannot support another mine, if the mines cannot be self-sufficient in regard to water, they should not mine.

Whitehaven Coal states they are trying to keep the work force local? Example out of 400 jobs for local people, their production there's only a handful of workers, from Local Council.

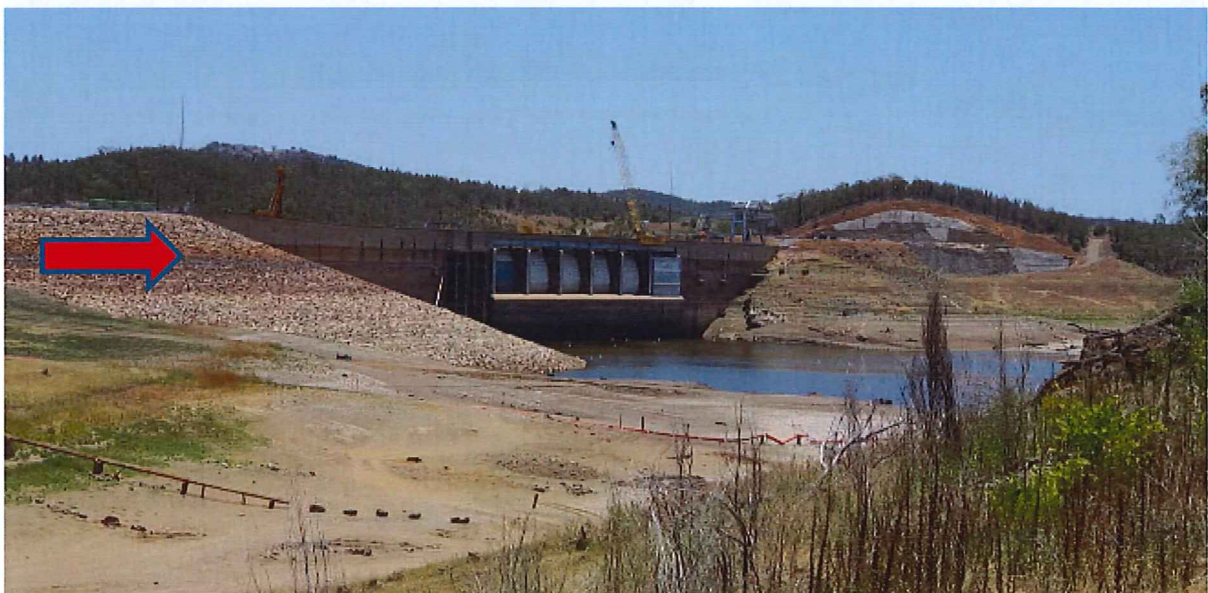
It is our Role to Protect Culture and Heritage for all Aboriginal people within NSW to get the best outcome for protection where we can.

So I am begging you as descendant from the first people, hold the mining and industry accountable, and let the reconciling begin with me and you here today. Say no, help me stand up for my ancestors which is also a part of your history/culture as well.

Thankyou

Yours sincerely

Mitchum Neave
Chairperson



As you can see by the tan level on the rocks where the water used to sit



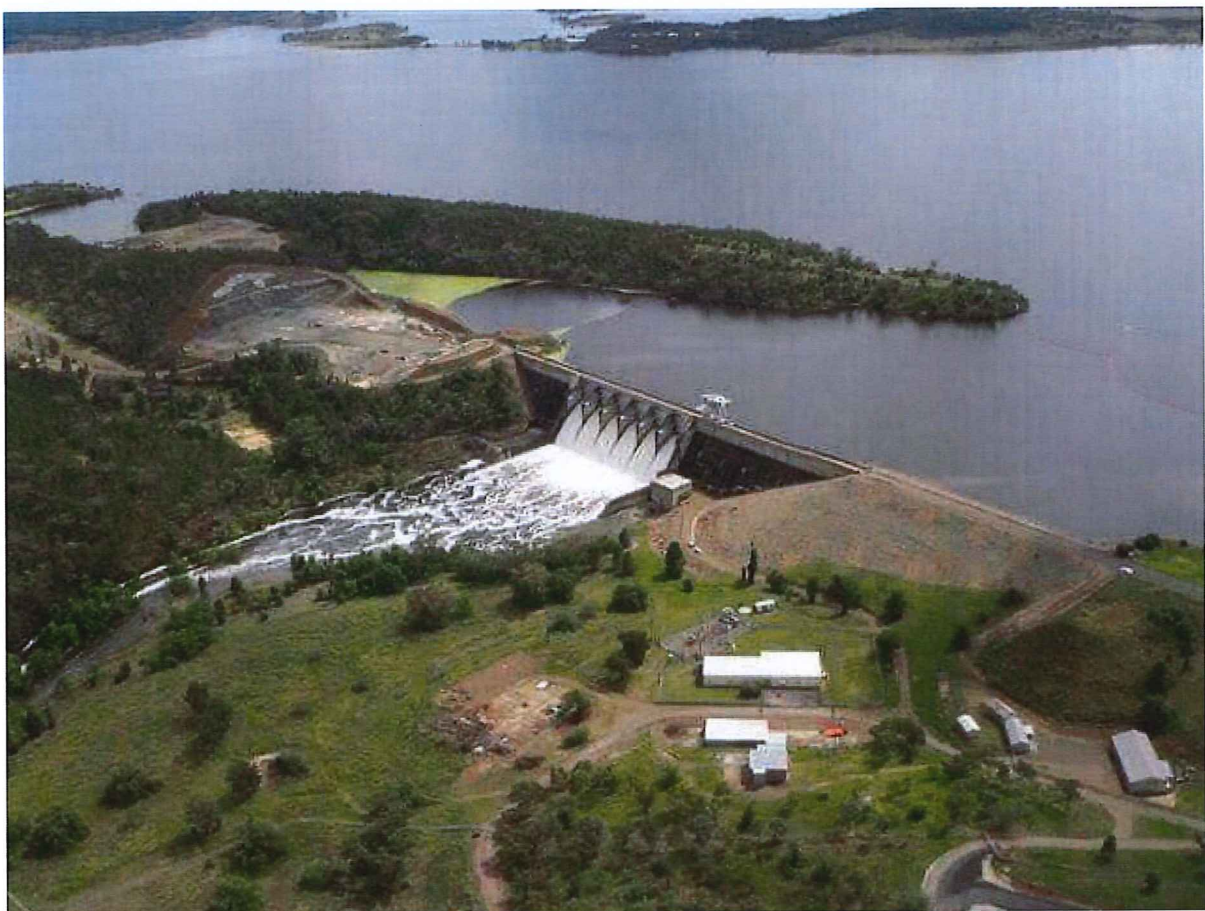
These are the fish clear to see now due to lack of water, to which they are going to die



Due to the Dam so low this is a well found that was forgotten about due to water coverage



This is the pontoon to swim out to, which normally would be a quarter of kilometre from shore



This is what it looks like filled

