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*Your Reference:*

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30 November 2018

Independent Planning Commission NSW  
Chair – Mr Peter Duncan AM  
Level 3  
201 Elizabeth Street  
**SYDNEY NSW 2000**

Attention: David Way

### **Independent Planning Commission's Public Hearing – Vickery Extension Project**

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Narrabri Shire Council welcomes the opportunity to participate in NSW Government's Independent Planning Commission's Public Hearing for the proposed Vickery Extension Project ("**Project**"), to be held in Gunnedah at 9:00am on Tuesday 18 December 2018.

Council embraces open and transparent planning processes with respect to Major Developments and fully appreciate the need to consult with affected members of the public. Council recognises that members of the Independent Planning Commission have important priorities across NSW and congratulate them on their initiative to visit the local region.

In Council's opinion, the issues relating to this Project are complex and multifaceted. As you will be aware, the Project covers both the Gunnedah Shire and Narrabri Shire Local Government Areas. It is Council's view that the community that will experience the greatest impact as a result of this Project is the township of Boggabri, which is located within the Narrabri Shire Local Government Area.

**Council would appreciate the Commission updating its website to reflect that the Project is in both Narrabri and Gunnedah Shires.**

The feedback that Council has received from a number of community members is that they would like the opportunity to participate in the Public Hearing. Council believes that the best way to achieve this public participation for residents from Boggabri is to give them an opportunity to meet with members of the Independent Planning Commission, in person.

**Council requests that the Commission hold hearings in the community of Boggabri, either on Tuesday 18th December 2018 or a later date that is acceptable to the Commission.**

It should be noted that Boggabri is located between the townships of both Narrabri and Gunnedah. Should members agree to hold hearings in Boggabri, Council is willing to provide assistance to administration staff at the Commission with respect to logistics and catering.

Council believes that the Commission could further reduce barriers to public participation in the Public Hearing process by approaching the proponent to make appropriate arrangements (i.e. a bus charter) for members of the Boggabri community to travel to Gunnedah for the scheduled meeting (at no cost to participants). Again, Council is willing to assist the proponent with any administrative arrangements for transportation of Boggabri community members to attend public hearings.

Analysis undertaken by Council indicates that an overwhelming majority of positive submissions from the Vickery Extension EIS process were from the Gunnedah Local Government Area.

However, it is clear that an overwhelming proportion of the Boggabri community are not in favour of this Project, in its current form. This may lead to a perception, real or otherwise, that the hearings may not represent the views of all affected stakeholders in the region. Holding a Public Hearing in Boggabri would go some way to addressing such perceptions.

We trust that the Independent Planning Commission will consider the issues in this letter, despite the relatively short timeframe.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact Council's Manager Planning and Regulatory Services, Mr Daniel Boyce, on (02) 6799 6866.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart Todd  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

