

Warren Hargraves – Speaking notes

Introduction

- Good morning/afternoon chair and panel. I thank you for the opportunity to speak at this event.
- My name is Warren Hargraves, and on behalf of my employer Expressway Spares I am speaking in favour of the Whitehaven Vickery Expansion.
- I am also a local resident having lived in the Gunnedah area for the past 15 years.

Expressway Spares

- Expressway Spares is a national company that employs approx. 300 dedicated staff across five branches in QLD, WA, Mount Thorley in the Hunter Valley and as of December 2018, their newest location has opened, here in Gunnedah.
- The company was established in Wauchope in late 1964 and primarily serviced the logging industry in the region during that time. Today it has evolved to service communities and multiple industries across Australia

Gunnedah

- Expressway Spares has a long history with this town and have been attending Ag-Quip for over 25 years.
- Since the mid 2000's, Expressway Spares has been observing the increased mining activity in the town and surrounding region. This coupled with the existing agricultural and civil industries, they decided to expand and establish our fifth branch.
- In 2017 we purchased a property in the new industrial subdivision of Gunnedah and Over the past 12 months we have invested over \$1.5m into Gunnedah through the construction of a new purpose-built warehouse and office complex.

Local employment

- Expressway spares always makes a point to ensure we source local suppliers and contractors where possible. During the establishment period we have now already employed four full-time staff, including myself, who are all based locally.
- Once up and running we anticipate that we will need to employ further people who will be sourced locally.
- Whenever we have opened a branch, we have always focused on employing staff who are local to the town or area.
- We believe that by employing local, the wages will be reinvested back into the community.
- Local staff contribute to the ongoing growth of the social economy of the community such as shopping locally, joining local sports and social clubs, and supporting local charities.

Vickery

- The company's decision to expand into Gunnedah is based in part on the Vickery project receiving approval and the subsequent economic activity it would generate.
- We are committed to this investment because we believe that the Vickery expansion is crucial to not only the local businesses like Expressway, but also the ongoing success of Gunnedah and the surrounding communities.

Conclusion

- We are not a million-dollar company.
- Our assets are our staff and their families.
- The approval of the Vickery expansion will ensure there is a future for not only them, but also their children.
- The mining industry now accounts for 90% of Expressway Spares business, and if important projects like the Vickery expansion are to be abandoned, it will have a dramatic affect not only for the Gunnedah operations, but more importantly, the staff and their families.

Thankyou