

Whitehaven Vickery Extension Project Community

Consultative Committee

Date: Thursday 29 January 2026

Venue: Gunnedah Council Office, and Online via Zoom

Invitees	
Community Representatives Leon Mills (LM), Community Representative Grant McIlveen (GM), Community Representative Keith Blanch (KB), Community Representative	Whitehaven Coal Megan Martin (MM), Environmental Superintendent Darren Swain (DS), General Manager Community Engagement Whitehaven Craig Sullivan (CS) (attending on behalf of Matt Sparkes) Harry Mills (HM), Environmental Advisor Whitehaven Coal
Narrabri Shire Council Cr Ethan Towns (ET), Councillor Narrabri Shire Council (delegate)	Independent Chairperson Professor Roberta Ryan (RR)
Gunnedah Shire Council Cr Ann Luke (AL), Councillor Gunnedah Shire Council (alternate representative) Wade Hudson (WH), Gunnedah Shire Council Manager Development Assessment	Minute taker Zoey Mackey-Craig (ZMC)
Apologies	
Barry Thompson (BT), Community Representative George Avard (GA), Community Representative Cr Brett Dickinson (BD), Councillor Narrabri Shire Council (alternate representative) Cr Cameron Moore (CM) Councillor Gunnedah Shire Council (delegate) Jabin de Keizer (JdK), Community Relations Manager Whitehaven Matthew Sparkes (MS), Manager Operations Whitehaven Vickery Phil Wade, Senior Project Manager on Vickery Extension Project	

Item	Description
1	Welcome, agenda, apologies, declarations – RR

Whitehaven Vickery Extension Project Community

Consultative Committee

	<p>RR opened the meeting and welcomed attendees, both in person and online. RR confirmed she would Chair the meeting and that ZMC would take the minutes. Apologies were noted as above.</p> <p>RR confirmed that the minutes from the previous meeting were circulated and no comments had been received. Minutes were accepted by exception.</p> <p>ZMC reminded members that the declaration of interest form was circulated prior to the meeting and encouraged them to review and provide back to the Chair with any updates. RR reiterated that these forms are to declare any conflicts, actual, potential or perceived.</p>
2	<p>Actions arising <i>This section provides an opportunity to follow up on the actions agreed at the previous meeting/s, clarify outstanding issues, and offer any relevant updates or feedback. It ensures continuity between meetings and allows the group to track progress on previously discussed items.</i></p>
	<p>A): Questions for Narrabri Council. Responsible: BD, ET Due: ASAP</p> <p>Chair note – Narrabri Council provided detailed responses to the above questions out of session. Due the nature of the financial information, these details have been provided directly to members and will not be included in the minutes for public record.</p> <p>(a) How much money has the Council received in the past 20 years through VPAs and one-off payments associated with the mining industry. BD says that all VPA agreements are published on the Council’s website, so can be accessed there.</p> <p>BD is unaware at this stage as to where this us up to, but he has forwarded this on to council and will provide a response offline as soon as possible.</p> <p>(b) How much money has been invested back into Boggabri within this past 20-year period. BD has forwarded this to the council and will provide a response offline as soon as possible.</p> <p>(c) How much interest has been earned on the \$3.2 million contributed to the Council by the Vickery Coal mine. BD has forwarded this on to council and will provide a response offline as soon as possible.</p> <p><i>This matter had been closed, however is included in the minutes due the following discussion in the meeting.</i></p> <p>Discussion in meeting 29/01/2026 Discussion moved to the outstanding questions regarding Narrabri Shire Council</p>

Whitehaven Vickery Extension Project Community

Consultative Committee

expenditure of mining-related funds. GM and KB reiterated community concerns about how funds generated from mining activity are distributed, particularly in Boggabri. It was noted that previous information indicated \$1.8 million was spent in Boggabri in 2004 for the pool, while larger sums have been allocated elsewhere. Members expressed concern that Boggabri, as a town directly impacted by mining, is not receiving a proportionate share.

KB suggested a per capita or impact-based allocation model be considered.

ET acknowledged the concerns and offered to assist in obtaining clearer information from Council. He requested a clear breakdown of exactly what information the committee is seeking, to be sent directly to Council, with ET and Eloise Chapman to be copied in, to avoid delays due to internal staffing changes. ET then suggested a phone call may be more efficient. GM confirmed he would follow up directly with ET by phone.

Action remains open.

ARISING PREVIOUS MEETINGS

B): Circulation of the ToR to members, with request for approval to publish name and contact email on the Whitehaven Vickery website.

Responsible: ZMC

Due: ASAP

RR raised that as part of the updated Terms of Reference, members are required to have either an email address or phone number publicly available, unless they request otherwise.

ZMC asked members to confirm whether they are comfortable having their email published on the Whitehaven website, or whether they prefer that community contact be directed via the Chair. Members discussed that direct contact can be helpful, provided individuals are comfortable with that arrangement. Community members indicated they felt mobile contact would be preferable.

Action: ZMC to prepare list of contact names and numbers for website, for approval of members.

C): Determine unique identifier for “Braymont” road, specifically the section that has experienced recent overuse leading to damage. Provide unique identifier to Cr. Towns, to enable Council maintenance on damaged road.

Responsible: Secretariat to confirm with GM if this matter can be closed.

Chair note – GM was an apology for the meeting however had asked for this message to be shared:

“Also, at the meeting can you please thank Narrabri Shire for grading the roads, Whitehaven for putting the signs up that has dramatically cut the road usage on Braymont Road and keep onto Narrabri about the money owing to Boggabri, otherwise a letter to go to the Planning dept about that money please

Whitehaven Vickery Extension Project Community

Consultative Committee

	<p><i>Thanks Grant</i></p> <p>This matter remains open. ZMC to progress out of session.</p>
3	<p>Environmental Report</p> <p>MM introduced the environmental report for the quarter. HM presented monitoring results. Please refer to attached presentation for detail.</p> <p>Noise Monitoring HM advised that attended noise monitoring was undertaken at Lanreef and Broadwater during the reporting period. There were no exceedances recorded in October, November or December.</p> <p>Air Quality Monitoring HM advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No air quality exceedances during the quarter.• Depositional dust gauge results remain below 2.5g/m²/month.• TEOM (real-time dust monitors) were compliant.• One depositional gauge was decommissioned due to mining progression.• Annual average to December was approximately 1.6. <p>Water Monitoring</p> <p>HM presented hydrographs showing groundwater levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slight seasonal decreases were observed due to warmer weather and usage.• Results are uploaded quarterly to the website.• LM asked questions regarding the type of bores used and groundwater behaviour. <p>HM explained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most bores are 50mm monitoring bores.• Some include piezometers with continuous logging; others are manually dipped.• There are two primary aquifer types monitored: alluvial and Permian (hard rock).• Alluvial levels fluctuate with the Namoi River and rainfall; Permian levels are more stable. <p>Surface Water Monitoring HM confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No discharges from the site.• The Namoi River is monitored monthly. pH around 8, typical for the Namoi.• No oil or grease detected.• TSS levels consistent with background.• Electrical conductivity ranged between 400–800. <p>Mine water dam capacity was approximately 1,000 megalitres (around 18 months supply).</p> <p>Blast Monitoring HM advised:</p>

Whitehaven Vickery Extension Project Community

Consultative Committee

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 blasts between 1 October and 31 December.• Highest overpressure recorded was 118.5 dB.• Highest ground vibration recorded was 7.1 mm/s.• All blasts were compliant. <p>He noted that underground geology influences vibration levels.</p> <p>Management plans</p> <p>MM advised no new plans to have been approved in the last quarter. There are several plans have been submitted to the Department and are awaiting approval, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waste Management Plan• Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan• Environmental Management Strategy• Traffic Management Plan• Biodiversity Management Plan <p>The Water Management Plan is being updated to reflect the revised water balance. GM asked whether these were new plans or updates. MM clarified they are updates to existing approved plans, generally involving refinements to descriptions and operational detail.</p>
4	<p>Project Update/Approvals Update</p> <p>CS provided an operational update for Quarter 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The fleet increased from three to four excavators, with one transferred from Tarrawonga as that operation begins to slow and Vickery ramps up.• The primary fleet now consists of four excavators and 15 trucks.• Waste movement was slightly higher than the previous quarter.• Approximately 567,000 tonnes of ROM coal were mined in Q2.• The workforce has increased slightly and is currently sitting at approximately 190 personnel. <p>AL asked about staffing levels and housing impacts, particularly whether workforce growth is placing pressure on local housing and whether partner employment opportunities are being considered.</p> <p>CS responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The workforce level is considered appropriate for current production levels.• Whitehaven continues to prioritise local employment where possible, however availability of skilled labour can be challenging.• Employees who live further away are generally accommodated in camp.• The company remains mindful of local housing pressures and aims to manage workforce growth responsibly. <p>KB asked about production volumes compared with previous years. CS confirmed that last year's production was approximately 1.4 million tonnes. Vickery is producing more this year due to the additional equipment and ramp-up of activity, while Tarrawonga is beginning to taper.</p>

Whitehaven Vickery Extension Project Community

Consultative Committee

	<p>Discussion moved to strip ratio.</p> <p>CS advised that Vickery’s strip ratio is currently sitting at approximately 8.5 to 9:1. He explained that this reflects the amount of overburden that needs to be removed relative to coal extracted and is consistent with expectations for the current stage of the mine plan.</p> <p>Members discussed how this compares to Tarrawonga, with CS noting that the geology differs between the two sites and that Tarrawonga has historically operated at different strip ratios depending on seam depth and location.</p> <p>CS also confirmed that Tarrawonga is currently approved to operate until 2030 and that a modification is being prepared to extend operations to approximately 2033.</p>
	<p>Safety and Compliance Performance</p> <p>Safety and Compliance</p> <p>CS advised that the Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) remains at zero. Operational excellence metrics tracked at 100%.</p> <p>Approvals / Modifications</p> <p>MM provided an update on modifications. Modification 2 was approved in October 2025, allowing a temporary increase in haulage. Modification 3 is being prepared to allow longer-term haulage alignment to FY2030. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aligning Tarrawonga and Vickery haulage periods to a calendar year (administrative consistency).• Potential increases up to 4.1Mt per annum combined. <p>MM noted that moving to volumes of 4.5Mt would require an overpass over the Kamilaroi Highway into the CHPP under the current approvals. The modification will amend this requirement. Preliminary traffic assessment and road safety audit indicate the road network is performing adequately and has capacity. Updated assessments (traffic, noise, greenhouse gas) will accompany the modification. AL requested that greenhouse gas acronyms be included in the glossary.</p> <p>EPBC Update (MOD1)</p> <p>MM advised that the EPBC referral for MOD1 remains under federal assessment. The disturbance areas (including road realignment and pipelines) cannot proceed until federal determination is received. Determination is anticipated around June 2026.</p>
5	Community Updates, Complaints
	<p>MM provided an update</p> <p>One complaint was received from a landholder north of the highway regarding light and</p>

Whitehaven Vickery Extension Project Community

Consultative Committee

	<p>noise. MM confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acoustic engineers attended the property for two consecutive nights.• Monitoring confirmed compliance.• Direct contact numbers have been provided to enable quicker response in future. <p>DS provided the Community Investment update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investment Committee meetings are held twice yearly.• The next formal funding round is scheduled for April.• Applications can be submitted at any time, and where requests fall outside formal rounds but require early consideration, these are assessed as appropriate. <p>AL asked who sits on the Community Investment Committee. DS advised that the Committee consists of seven representatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Mayors• Local influential community members• Indigenous representatives• Representation from Narrabri• Representation from Gunnedah• Representation from Liverpool Plains <p>DS noted that this structure is intended to ensure a balanced regional perspective and appropriate local input into funding decisions.</p> <p>DS further advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately \$100,000 has been allocated since the November meeting through investment and partnership funding.• 18 organisations have been supported.• Funding has been distributed across both Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups. <p>Members were reminded that sponsorship requests can be submitted via the Whitehaven website.</p>
6	Next Steps in the Project
7	Any other business and next meeting
	<p>KB raised concerns regarding Blue Vale/Blue River farming land associated the Maules Creek extension approval. DS advised that submissions (including from government agencies) are currently being responded to. Next steps include Departmental assessment, and potentially referral to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC).</p> <p>RR explained that the IPC will determine whether a site visit is required as part of their assessment process.</p> <p>Members noted the importance of ensuring the agricultural productivity of the land is</p>

Whitehaven Vickery Extension Project Community

Consultative Committee

clearly communicated in submissions throughout this process.

RR advised that updates about the process can be found on the Department of Planning's assessment page online, and reminded members that the Maules Creek approval process is ongoing and expected to take time.

Members were given the opportunity to raise any other business by the Chair.

GM confirmed he would contact ET directly to follow up on Council funding matters.

RR concluded the meeting, confirming future meeting dates and thanking members for their time.

2026 Meetings:

- Thursday 29 January
- Thursday 30 April *Site Visit*
- Thursday 3 July
- Thursday 22 October

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 30 April 2026. A potential site visit was discussed.

New action: MM to confirm with operations whether a site visit can be accommodated and confirm details prior to the April meeting.

Responsible: MM

Due: ASAP