



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

MC20-013633

Ms Georgina Woods  
NSW Coordinator, Lock the Gate Alliance  
PO Box 290  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300  
georgewoods79@gmail.com

Dear Ms Woods

Thank you for your letter to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, concerning the environmental history of Whitehaven Coal with regard to the Vickery Extension Project (EPBC ref 2016/7649). Your letter has been passed on to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to reply.

In deciding whether to approve the Vickery Extension Project, and what conditions to attach to an approval, the Minister, or her delegate, will consider, in accordance with section 136(4) of the EPBC Act, whether Vickery Coal Pty Ltd, the person proposing to take the action, is a suitable person to be granted an approval.

To assist the decision-maker's assessment of Vickery Coal's suitability, the Department will undertake an environmental history check. This check will review the Department's compliance records, as well as other information available to the Department or the Minister. Relevant material will be provided to the decision-maker for consideration.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Louise Vickery'.

Louise Vickery  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment Approvals (NSW, ACT)  
6<sup>th</sup> October 2020