

Scott McCalman
Jedburgh Farming PL

- * I strongly object to the Vickery Coal Mine Expansion, with the points summarized below.
- * The company wants to more than double the volume of coal it mines every year
- * The infrastructure the company is proposing has larger capacity than the proposed mine, and farmers know from bitter experience that coal mines tend to metastasize, and not tell the truth.
- * The company proposes a new rail crossing over the Namoi River and floodplain and as a neighboring land holder, I am concerned that there is no information on the positioning of the culverts, elevation & depth of cement pylons. The overland water from this area flows east towards the river, and therefore with a rail line preventing this flow, water will be backed up onto neighboring landholders, causing inundation of crops and loss of income. There is already an existing rail line across the Namoi Flood plain
- * This proposed rail line could potentially cause a major flood risk to the town of Gunnedah, by backing water up the flood plain, by increasing head height
- * The proposed extension site is too close to the Namoi River, the pits now come close to the edge of the Namoi's alluvial aquifer, the productive groundwater that underlies the river, and feeds it. The pits will induce leakage from the alluvial aquifer and the Namoi River itself.
- * Farmers are already struggling with drought in this area. The proposed extension will put added stress to underground water, increasing the prices of temporary water, and pollute the Namoi River & its riverine environment.
- * People in the small community of Boggabri believe the community cannot handle a fifth mine in close proximity to the town. They're concerned that the scale is too large for the town to cope with. The mine elevates wages, increasing the risk to the community of increased use of drugs & crime. The community of Boggabri do not want this.
- * The mine will be located close to the historically significant property and homestead "Kurumbede" which was the inspiration for several Dorothea Mackellar poems including the famous "My Country." One outbuilding at Kurumbede will be destroyed by mining and the homestead could suffer from the vibration of blasting and the loss of scenic value and quietude.
- * The area adjacent to the proposed mine is strategic agricultural land and the impacts of dust and noise and 24 hour light pollution, will make this land unlivable and likely impact the quality of crops grown there.
- * Already, 76 family farms have been purchased by Whitehaven in close proximity to the town of Boggabri. This has hollowed out the township, affected local businesses and destroyed the social fabric of the district.
- * This proposal will mean more rural properties bought up because of air and noise pollution, irreversibly changing Boggabri, and impacting on our way of life
- * As local farmers we know that climate change is real, and it has certainly been effecting us for the past decade. We have been receiving 50 to 60 days, above 40 degree celsius, when the average for this area is 8. Government should be reducing coal mine in the 21st century, not increasing. ie latest IPC report on Climate change
- * Leading economist Jeffrey Sachs, has urged Australia to make a plan, a timeline, tell the world how we are going to decarbonize.

* Whitehaven already has proved that it cannot be trusted. It has breached dust, noise and environmental parameters.

* Developments need to be balanced and considered. I strongly believe this expansion tips the balance, which involves too much risk to the environment, our climate, our standard of living, and impacts our capacity to produce food.

* New developments in our valley, should be concentrating on renewable energy, that are going to contribute to Australia's energy needs and not overseas investment and foreign country. ie concentrated solar thermal