

From: [Katie Winchester](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Objection to Whitehaven Vickery Expansion Project
Date: Tuesday, 30 June 2020 12:59:13 PM

To the NSW Independent Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of the Narrabri Council and the farmers of Boggabri in their objection to the Whitehaven Vickery Expansion Project.

The Narrabri Council are concerned about the social impacts of the mine. They've already suffered depopulation caused by the nearby Maules Creek coal mine as people leave surrounding farmland, and this expansion will exacerbate that trend.

The new mine would extract 168 million tonnes of coal, up to 10 million tonnes a year, adding several million tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. As a young person dreading the effects of climate change, this is particularly concerning.

The mine's consumption of water would also have a terrible impact on the area. The nearby Maules Creek mine has already taken water illegally, and outbid local farmers for water at auctions. The Namoi area is dry and a water-hungry mine would be a terrible waste of a precious resource. Further, Whitehaven is proposing to pile mine spoil on top of the Namoi alluvial aquifer. The Department of Planning Industry and Environment has already stated they do not support this plan because of the danger of heavy metals leaching into the aquifer.

In summary this expansion project would be polluting and damaging to the local environment, negatively affecting the Namoi Valley farmers and residents. The mine would permanently disfigure the landscape, and almost certainly pollute the Namoi River.

Please make the right choice,

Kathleen Winchester

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