

OBJECTION TO THE WHITEHAVEN COAL VICKERY EXTENSION PROJECT

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Independent Planning Commission
Panel for the Whitehaven Coal Vickery Extension
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Submission: OBJECTION TO THE VICKERY EXTENSION *NAMOI VALLEY*

1. While I want to keep the lights on in NSW this proposal fails because of unrealistic water use demands for a new monster coal mine.
2. Three open cut mines nearby take water from the waterway and already have driven some local farming away depopulating the Boggabri /Maules Creek community.
3. The project envisages a railway line crossing the Namoi River and its flood plain. This river is 708 kilometres long. Tamworth is the largest urban centre followed by Gunnedah and Narrabri. Other settlements include Barraba, Boggabri, Quirindi, Walgett, Wee Waa and Werris Creek. It is a part of the Barwon Catchment of the Murray-Darling Basin. To keep this a true perennial river this mine application must be refused.
4. Narrabri Council has objected to the project as Maules Creek mine has out bid farmers for water at auction and built pipelines to the mine and caused depopulation. Water is life. The Department of Planning has admitted that Vickery might run out of water in dry times.
5. Vickery would mine 10M tonnes per year. Management proposes to pile mine spoil on top of 202 hectares of Namoi alluvial aquifer but is not supported by DoPiE because the presence of acid forming materials in the spoil will mean that heavy metals could leach into the aquifer below.
6. The mine site includes the historic "Kurrumbede" property. Blasting vibrations will definitely harm the homestead.
7. Most of the north west NSW has been in the grip of a long drought. This proposed new coal mine would use huge amounts of water in a 24/7 operation. Whitehaven must be grateful for the approval of its present mining leases. It is important for the Environment Protection Authority to monitor all of Whitehaven's operations and be reimbursed.

8. To conclude: It is not in the national interest for the Vickery extension proposal to operate for 17 years to be approved.

Yours sincerely,


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