

Submission

**Objection**

Whitehaven Vickery Extension

**Keep Sydney Beautiful** is a community group with over 1,000 members throughout NSW. We are located in Sydney and our members are concerned that the Vickery Coal Mine extension will impact food and water security of our farmers which will have flow on effects to people living in the city in terms of both the cost and quality of food produced.

People living in cities such as Sydney do not support coal energy and voting patterns including Wentworth have shown that renewable energy is supported over coal and jobs can be created in this area.

After reading the EIS, we have several concerns about expanding the Vickery coal mine and these include the impact on the ecology of the area, the impact on climate change from coal production (we note the recent result in the Land and Environment Court by Gloucester v Rocky Hill Mine), the impacts on the health of people in the nearby town of Boggabri and the lack of information from the proponents. The lack of information includes details about a proposed rail line and the impacts this could have on farmland.

Our primary concern is the impact the mine will have on the Naomi River which is part of the Murray Darling basin catchment area. The river system is **in crisis**.

Drought and over irrigation have seen Menindee Lakes dry up and the catastrophic environmental effects of this on both people and wildlife cannot be underestimated. Keepit Dam is now empty. The river system cannot cope with existing demands and so to add more demands for water is both reckless and irresponsible.

We urge the Panel to **reject** this extension as it does not address aquifer recharge implications, fails to acknowledge and address floodplain management and does not address the implications of extreme weather patterns including severe drought and severe flooding

Keep Sydney Beautiful