I object strongly to this proposed development.

Water issues

I object to this proposal because it involves diversion of water from the farming and local communities and the environment, to this unnecessary coal mining development.

The Department of Planning has identified that if it goes ahead, the new Vickery mine will run out of water in dry times. What about the local communities?

Living in Armidale NSW I have direct experience of living with level 5 water restrictions. The residents of the nearby township of Uralla also have direct experience of polluted water - in this case with arsenic. The local Uralla Council had to provide bottled water to all local residents for months. Now local wetlands are being threatened by the need for more bores. This means I have some understanding of what the Boggabri District and the Narrabri Council are faced with through Whitehaven Coal’s proposed Vickery Coal Mine development.

The reputation of the company with water resources is not good. The nearby Maules Creek Coal Mine has already taken water illegally, outbid local farmers for water at auction and built pipelines from nearby farms to divert farming water for mining.

Climate Change

If the development goes ahead it is estimated that it will add 370 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. Why would we want that? After the bushfire season we have just had and the other extreme weather events since we need to move more quickly to renewables rather than supporting an extension of this outdated energy source.

Social Impacts

The social impacts of such developments on inland farming communities is also significant with the buying up of family farms and the depopulation of communities.

For the sake of our rural and regional communities – and future generations, I ask that this proposed development be rejected completely.

Celia Smith

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