Dear Commissioners,

I respectfully object to the planned Vickery Extension Project by Whitehaven Mines at Narrabri on social, cultural and environmental grounds including the following:-

This so called extension is actually a NEW mine necessitating a new rail connection that will cross the Namoi River and its floodplain;

The site includes the culturally important and historical property “Kurrumbede”, an Australian national treasure and icon. This property will be impacted by blasting vibrations, noise and dust;

Narrabri Council have objected to the project due to its social impact on the Boggabri district, one already suffering depopulation of farms due to the Whitehaven Mauls Creek mine.

One third of the mines extraction capacity will be used as thermal coal and burnt overseas. This will contribute 370million tonnes of Greenhouse Gas emissions to the atmosphere increasing Australia’s COP3 emissions;

Another water thirsty mine on the Namoi River has, according to the Dept of Planning, the ability to deplete supply in dry times. Whitehaven Mauls Creek mine has already illegally taken water diverting it from farming operations. Stealing water for food production is not a good plan.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Water Division does not support the company’s proposal to dump contaminated mine spoil on the 202 hectare of the Namoi alluvial aquifer and I object to this plan as it will mean heavy metals could leach into the aquifer below.

With the combined global scientific knowledge about fossil fuel mining its pollution at inception through to completion and its final contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, now is not the time to be expanding this polluting industry and approval should not be granted.

Thank you for your time and work on this important matter.

Sincerely

Cheryl Nunn