I would like to register my objection to the Vickery Extension Project due to environmental concerns. We are still in the grip of a drought with rivers running dry, including the Namoi, which would be affected by this project. Coal mining will take water that is needed by farmers for food and fibre, as well as being required to keep the environment healthy. We cannot eat or wear coal!

Regardless of when the drought breaks this mine will cause pollution: not only to the surrounding area but in the release of greenhouse gases that will further increase Climate Change. We should be transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewables which do not carry these risks.

Coal mining is notorious for causing chemical pollution to the land and the water systems and this will have devastating effects on our capacity to use the land and water in the future. Mining also causes damage to infrastructure and buildings in the area and can often lead to subsidence and sinkholes.

I understand that the local council has objected as it has already experienced the effects of a local coal mine, with water taken illegally, farmers outbid at water auction and social effects on the population. As well, the Department of Planning has concerns about future effects on the aquifer in the area.

It will be not only the locals and this generation that pay for this project: future generations should not be made to pay for short term profits for a few. Fossil fuels are killing us through respiratory issues as well as Climate Change and the effects this has through more intense bushfires, droughts and storms. I do not want to live through more summers like the one we have just experienced and yet this will be everyone’s future if we continue to mine and burn fossil fuels.