I am extremely concerned and object completely with the proposed Vickery Extension Project for the following reasons:

With increased population across the globe, food is only going to increase in demand and we have the space and resources in this country to continue producing food so destroying good farmland doesn’t make sense and given what has happened with Covid 19, having our own food supply has been shown to be extremely important

In an already dry country, with an area that also has a mine straining the local water supply already, adding to the demand would be irresponsible and unintelligent. The town, farms and existing mine all need water. Even the Department of Planning admits it might run out of water in dry times. What then? Have we learnt nothing after this last long devastating drought!

370 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions predicted from this mine and its products is enormous compared to farming. According to the EPA (<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>), Agriculture only accounts for 10% of emissions. My rough calculation estimates that the ‘total’ for Australian Agriculture is a mere 645,700 tonnes in comparison, let alone just this small district

Dumping mine spoil on the Namoi alluvial aquifer, where acid forming materials can leach heavy metals into the aquifer below, is completely irresponsible. Groundwater has been essential for use in dry areas and during droughts. Contaminating the water would be devastating

The water from the Namoi River is also valuable downstream for local councils and water utilities, dryland and irrigated agriculture, livestock grazing, recreational facilities, and wetlands. Some of the places affected by reduced water in the Namoi include;

Tamworth - Chaffey Dam regulates the flow of the Peel River and augments water supply to Tamworth. “Floodwaters play a vital role in sustaining and replenishing the landscape, but are also highly valued by local agricultural users. The alteration of natural river flows through the construction of dams and weirs, and erosion from land clearing, affect riverine health and contribute to water quality problems, such as salinity” (<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/basins-catchments/snapshots/namoi>)

Barwon River- Aboriginal people built a complex series of fish traps on the Barwon River at Brewarrina. These traps are well-preserved and have now been listed on the Australian National Heritage List. The Barwon river also “suffers from salinity, high nutrient levels and poor flow and most streams are in marginal to poor condition. The Barwon is still waiting for the delivery of promised environmental flows. Improved flows in the Moorabool have benefited the lower Barwon but the river needs more” (<https://environmentvictoria.org.au/our-campaigns/healthy-rivers/about-healthy-rivers/river-stories/barwon-river-basin>).

Lake Connewarre - which forms part of the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site as a wetland of international importance.

Environmental Values –“ The Pilliga Scrub is the largest remaining dry sclerophyll forest west of the Great Dividing Range in NSW. Pilliga Nature Reserve and Pillga State Conservation Area together protect over 1,800 square kilometres of this semi-arid woodland.

Downstream of Narrabri there are many small lagoons, wetlands, and anabranches associated with the river, and extensive areas of floodplain woodlands on the floodplain.” <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/basins-catchments/snapshots/namoi>

Please do not let this Mine go ahead. No more mines on our valuable land and in our sea. We need to protect our agriculture, people, water and environment