Dear Panel

Thank you for your time to consider my submission.

I wish to object to this project going ahead on the following grounds.

The most troubling aspect of this for the farmers, is the water use that this mine will generate to wash coal. We are a dry country still reeling from drought, yet this will draw what remaining water there is in a parched area. Where will the farmers get water for their crops? Already Whitehaven’s Maules Creek coal mine has taken water illegally and outbid local farmers. We need our farmlands and `water for crops and our townships, not for coal. I cannot see how this is justified to go ahead on the water use alone.

The Vickery will only be 400 meters from the Namoi River. If rainfall exceeds 38mm over 5 days, they have been allowed to dump their polluted water back into the Namoi. This is an environmental disaster in the making allowing toxins into the river system. And will disfigure more of our beautiful landscape.

The historic homestead Kurrumbede, no doubt will be damaged by ground vibrations. Another part of our history being destroyed by mining which should not be allowed.

The amount of emissions that this mine will produce is not in line with curbing our emissions – from research found it will add 370 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere.

Whitehaven also proposes to pile mine spoil on top of 202 hectares on the Namoi alluvial aquifer. Not supported by the Department of Planning Industry and Environments own Water Division, with good reason.

I object because this will destroy farmland, impact on precious water in an already dry country, impact on the health of the Namoi, and increase our emissions, and should not go ahead.