Objection from Catherine Woolnough

I object to the **Whitehaven’s Vickery Extension Project for the following reasons**

 This open cut mine will mine 168 million tonnes of coal, at a rate of up to 10 million tonnes per year. One third of it will be thermal coal and will be burned for electricity overseas. Altogether, if it goes ahead, this mine will add 370 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere.

Adding huge volumes of greenhouse gas to the atmosphere will only contribute to climate change, drought and worsening bush fire seasons in Australia.

 Narrabri Council has formally objected to the project, due to its social impacts on the Boggabri district, already reeling from the depopulation of farms by Whitehaven’s nearby Maules Creek coal mine.

 Vibration from this open cut coal mine blasting will harm the historic “Kurrumbede” property homestead.

 The most troubling aspect of the mine is its lack of water. Even the Department of Planning admits it might run out of water in dry times. To feed its thirst for water, Whitehaven’s 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. I am concerned that with climate change and increasing drought, water shortages will lead to more illegal stealing of waterl.

 Building another water hungry coal mine in the parched Namoi is a terrible idea which is not practical or fair to people and ecosystems in the area and surrounds.

 Furthermore, Whitehaven proposes to pile mine spoil  on top of 202 hectares of the Namoi alluvial aquifer, a plan the Department of Planning Industry and Environment’s own Water Division has stated it does not support because the presence of acid forming materials in the spoil will mean heavy metals could leach into the aquifer below.