The Vickery expansion will undercut the ability of future generations to capitalise on the unique combination of rich natural assets in the Namoi Valley.

Gunnedah, the state of NSW and indeed the world does not *need* more coal from the Vickery expansion. It is clear that coal is in demand across the world, and that mining brings significant economic benefits to those directly involved in the industry. However, the permanent impacts on neighbours and natural resources in the Gunnedah basin are greater.

In 50 years time, it is my opinion that NSW will be ashamed of the permanent damage caused to our rivers, floodplains, soils and forests. There are healthier alternatives to generate employment in NSW and for the world to generate electricity.

On a local level, I am deeply concerned about the impact of the mine on the health of the Namoi River and the surrounding floodplain. All landholders near to the mine will suffer great economic loss from significant changes to floodwater flows. As a farmer myself, I have seen this firsthand from relatively minor public and private earthworks on a similar floodplain.

There are alternative means to supply employment for Gunnedah and energy for the world without damaging the rich natural assets of the Gunnedah basin.

Please don’t allow this mine to expand across the Namoi River floodplain. In 50 years time, our descendants will agree that food production is far more essential than coal fired electricity.