

NSW Government
Independent Planning Commission

I wish to offer a submission in opposition to this project.

I come from a mixed farming operation that is within 30kms of the proposed Vickery Mine extension. I am a young woman who works in the agriculture industry. In my submission, I would like to address what I have found to be one of the main justifications for this project: job creation.

I will start by acknowledging that I share the concern that many proponents of this project hold - I too believe regional communities in North West NSW deserve new employment opportunities. I want people in Boggabri to see a future for themselves here. I want them to be able to navigate and discover clear and prosperous career paths in our region. I want people to be safe and happy at work and at home.

But, I differ from those members of my community who support this project because I refuse to be tricked into believing that this mine is our only shot at achieving all this. I am different from these people because I genuinely don't believe that anyone can be safe in a changed climate and happy in a divided community.

Boggabri deserves an industry that will give us jobs that are sustainable. It deserves an industry that is as honest and transparent as its people - and one that won't divide us. It deserves a project that won't wind up in just 20 years from now, snuffing out any whiff of career progression for its young local workers. We deserve a project that will work in harmony with other industries in the town - one that won't drain skilled employees from other jobs and water from our river. We deserve the right to be able to maintain our waterways, aquifers and forests for future generations and to lead action on climate change. Boggabri deserves a project that is operated by people who respect Gomeri land and heritage.

Boggabri deserves better than the Vickery Coal mine expansion. There are safer and more just ways that we can achieve new local employment opportunities. I'm willing to wait.

Emma Donaldson