Ann Nielsen Objections to the Vickery Coal Mine Extension

* Whitehaven already has an approval for a coal mine at the site, but the company wants to more than double the volume of coal it mines every year, to 10 million tonnes. This cannot be approved as NSW already produces too much coal. Unless no new coal mines are approved the carbon dioxide levels will go way too high resulting in temperatures of over 2 degrees Celsius increase. We have already seen the results of too much warming with the massive bushfires that occurred at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020.
* The jobs created by the mines must be replaced by jobs in renewable energy, including hydrogen. Beyond Zero Emissions has laid out a plan for one million jobs to replace all coal mining, gas extraction and power station jobs.
* The company proposes a new rail crossing over the Namoi River and floodplain and a new large coal handling facility that can process coal from other mines in the region.
* Whitehaven was forced to move its proposed pits further away from the Namoi River, but the pits now come close to the edge of the Namoi’s alluvial aquifer, the productive groundwater that underlies the river, and feeds it. The pits will result in leakage from the alluvial aquifer and the Namoi River itself.
* People in the small community of Boggabri believe the community cannot handle a fifth mine in close proximity to the town. They’re concerned that the scale is too large for the town to cope with.
* The area adjacent to the proposed mine is strategic agricultural land and the impacts of coal dust and noise will make this land unliveable and likely impact the quality of crops grown there.
* Already, 76 family farms have been purchased by Whitehaven in close proximity to the town of Boggabri. This has hollowed out the township, affected local businesses and seriously disrupted the social fabric of the district. If this proposal goes ahead more rural properties will be bought up because of air and noise pollution, irreversibly changing Boggabri.