Dear Chair and Commissioners,

I am a mother of two children one 19 and the other only 4. I am deeply concerned about the world they will live in when they are my age and older. The natural world is suffering under the pressure of our fossil fuel culture which is driving climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, habitat loss, species extinction and many other serious consequences. This really needs to stop, we need to find better ways of operating.

I object to the project: Vickery Coal Mine Extension.

2020 is certainly not the time to be building new coal mines, given the catastrophic bushfires experienced in our country are now widely agreed as a direct consequence of climate change which is of course driven by fossil fuels which coal is. Mining more coal in this day and age would clearly exacerbate climate change.

Whitehaven operates 4 other coal mines in the region and has a truly repugnant reputation that includes illegal clearing, polluting waterways, illegal disposal of cannisters, water theft and outbidding local farmers by more than $600 ML at water markets which is really outrageous in my opinion. Over the years Whitehaven has bought up more than 90 family farms in the North West of NSW and now owns more than 61,00ha in the region.

The DPIE stated in their assessment report that the mine may not have enough water to operate in dry times. Due to climate change we are expected to experience more severe and harsher droughts, WIll the farmers be expected to try and outbid the coal mines to be able to produce the food we eat. I understand that Whitehaven has suggested they will stop or slow production at their coal mine if there is not enough water, nothing in the way Whitehaven has conducted themselves to date in the North West suggests they would stay true to their word.

Supporters of the project suggest that it should be approved because of the jobs it will provide, I would suggest it is far more important to protect the water and the arable land to ensure that farmers are able to grow the food that we rely on to actually live. No one will care about jobs if we have no food to eat! It has been well established that there are many more jobs in the renewable energy sector in any event so the whole argument of jobs is really irrelevant.

Coal mining needs to end. We live in a world now that is being ravaged by the impacts of climate change before our very eyes, the same world where coal markets are declining and renewable energy is taking over.

Please consider the long term impacts of approving this coal mine, the impact on greenhouse gas emissions and therefor climate change, the impact on groundwater, the impact on the social cohesion of the North West.

I urge you to refuse the Vickery Coal Mine Extension.

Warm regards,

Amanda King