

I want to speak against the Vickery Extension Project.

I'm a farmer and have lived in the Willala area since 1950 and am concerned about what impact another mine in the Boggabri/Gunnedah area will have.

I would hate to see that the Namoi Valley becomes another place like the Hunter Valley has become, a land of dust, noise, gaping holes and ugly piles of rubble.

I'm concerned about the following:-

1. The effect that the development of this mine will have on the Namoi River and the aquifer's in the area. This area is a rich food producing area and any interference to the water aquifer's will have a detrimental effect to the whole region.
2. That some of the best farming land in the world will be used for the construction of the railway line.
3. What affect will the railway line have on the flood plain area? Will the water flow be changed and what properties will be affected by the change?
4. Will all of the construction and mining be totally rehabilitated when there is no more coal?
5. The acquisition of the Barlow property. James Barlow and his family will never be able to replace this property with any other similar property in Australia, which has river frontage, prime farming land and irrigation. You cannot put a price on this. Is this fair?

The construction of this mine is all for the short-term, whereas farming the land is for the long-term and the benefit of all Australians into the future. We are told that the mine is good for Boggabri and the community and yet I do not see any evidence of this in town. School numbers are dropping because farms have been purchased by the mines and people have left the district and town as a result, 1 club & 1 pub have closed down and an open until late take-away shop has also gone. This is hardly what you would call progress.

Thankyou for listening and considering these points in your decision to progress with the extension of the Vickery mine.