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To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission regards Whitehaven's planned Vickery Coal extension
Date: Tuesday, 30 June 2020 5:54:38 PM

Submission to:

NSW Independent Planning Commission

regards Expansion of Coal Mining in Boggabri Area NW NSW

30 June 2020

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to strongly protest against the planned extension of Whitehaven's Vickery coal mining extension in the NW NSW.

The frustrated North West farming community have seen their livelihoods diminished, threatened and in many cases ruined by water hungry mining operations in an already **drought ravaged** land.

A decision by any ruling body to proceed with mining expansion here would be morally reprehensible leading to certain economic & environmental ruin for the farming community.

What this community needs is a **sustainable farming** economy with a renewable energy future & infrastructure creation to supply multiple-fold more jobs than any destructive, limited resource, fossil fuel extraction industry.

I am told Narrabri Council have already objected, surely that is added weight for a denial of mining expansion.

Other reasons for stopping any further mining here are:

- It's called an "extension" but is really a new mine in the productive farming district of Boggabri, with a new rail connection crossing the Namoi River and its floodplain.
- It would mine 168 million tonnes of coal, at a rate of up to 10 million tonnes per year. One third of it will be thermal coal and will be burned for electricity overseas. Altogether, if it goes ahead, this mine will add **370 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere**.
- The most troubling aspect of the mine is its **lack of water**. Even the Department of Planning **admits** it (and thus every surrounding farmer !!) could run out of water in dry times. To feed its thirst for water, Whitehaven's nearby Maules Creek coal mine has already taken water illegally, outbid local farmers for water at auction and built pipelines from nearby farms to divert farming water for mining.
- Furthermore, Whitehaven proposes to pile mine spoil on top of 202 hectares of the Namoi alluvial aquifer, a plan the Department of Planning Industry and Environment's own Water Division has stated it does not support because the presence of acid forming materials in the spoil will mean heavy metals could leach into the aquifer below.

For the many reasons above it would be a deleterious step to approve Whitehaven's planned coal mining expansion.

The NSW government is blatantly ignoring the legitimate pleas of the existing farming

community! I call upon the IPC to block their irresponsible approval for further destruction of the farming landuse , the natural ecosystem & the underground water resource of a dry continent.

I also ask the commission , for very similar reasoning, to block any further fossil fuel mining proposals in NSW (including Santos' proposed CSG project)

Yours sincerely,
Fay Mead