

276 Mowbray Road,  
Artarmon 2064.

21/6/20

The Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW,  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street,  
Sydney 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re Vickery Extension Project.

We strongly support the local farmers, who are objecting to Whitehaven's Vickery Extension Project in the productive farming district of Boggabri.

Our country has just experienced one of its worst droughts in history, with some farmers not receiving any rain i.e. they are still in drought. It seems hard to believe that in these circumstances of continuing drought, any new mine or extension of a mine, would be considered since we are all aware of the huge amounts of water needed in the mining industry. So powerful and wealthy is this industry that it is able to outbid the local farmers for water at auctions – in some cases, the final bid has been double the usual and accepted price paid by farmers. The long term effect is that the farmers will leave the industry, not because of inefficiency, but due to the bullying tactics of a large, powerful corporation.

Another huge concern is that the two bores which supply Boggabri Mine, take water from Gunnedah Formation, which is linked to the Great Artesian Basin. We have seen the destruction and devastation inflicted on farms when the bores are low and dry.

Furthermore, the proposal for the mine spoil to go on top of the alluvial aquifer should be challenged and never considered. We have seen the on-going destruction done to the environment when the aquifers have been damaged by chemicals. Some farmers lose their source of water for animals and agriculture and instead have to cope with the introduction of toxins.

We know that our country needs industry and employment opportunities. We are also aware that with the future use of robotics, mechanisation of the mining industry and its infrastructure i.e. train transport, this industry will indeed be employing fewer people. On the other hand, farmers depend on small industry and small towns to provide for their needs and it is they who will be providing employment opportunities into the future.

Yours faithfully,

Susan Kilminster

