

I believe the scientific evidence is against the Vickery Extension Project.

However, I respect that this is your final decision and ask you to consider the adversely affected local communities, the Namoi river, the flood plain and the critical water supplies.

I ask that if you intend to give approval to the Vickery Extension Project, that Whitehaven Coal reaches a successful negotiated settlement with each affected landowner before you hand down your determination.

My home and property are approximately four kilometres away (Reference attached). This has been a productive farming operation and our home for the last 45 years.

Direct effects include:

My husband is an asthmatic and we will not be able to remain in our home.

Amenity Impacts, impacting include noise, dust including fine particulate matter and resulting contamination to soils and rain water collection and storage.

Aesthetics. Looking at large piles of overburden potentially stored on Whitehaven land on the western emplacement.

I can already feel the effects when mine area blasting occurs, shaking my house windows and rattling the car port roof. The impacts are already beginning felt.

I am very concerned with the flood water diversions and interference from the proposed rail line spur. These potential flood water impacts could be very severe during high flooding events. Having lived on the flood plain for 45 years I understand it is hard for other to fully appreciate the volumes of water. For example in 1976, 1984 floods the water flows past our levee bank for 5 days, 24 hours a day and the Kamilaroi Highway was also closed for 5 days. The whole of the flood plain was required to allow the waters to pass. The increasing risk of future severe weather events due to climate challengers will make this flooding increasing devastating. The flooding is a natural process and should cover the whole of the flood plain, unimpeded by engineering structures, as it is a source of water to replenish the underground aquifers. The available of the whole flood plain reduces the unnecessary risk of water diversions, excessive erosion, damage to roads and property and the loss of human and animal lives.

I ask that part of any approval also include Whitehaven paying into a fund for the complete removal of all structures built on the flood plain including any rail link. This way the integrity of the flood plain can be restored to its natural and important function. This fund is to be managed and operated completely separate to Whitehaven coal, transparently managed and funds quarantined. It is important that funds be set aside as mines can generally often fail to provide funds for full restoration works. It is important that these costs are not the responsibility of the local councils or the State Government.

Yours Sincerely,

Susan Crawford

Reference. Whitehaven Coal. Vickery Extension Project, Land Ownership Figure 1 – 5a. Property no 139