

From: [Kel Raison](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Objection to Vickery Extension Project
Date: Friday, 10 July 2020 1:12:04 PM

To the Independent Planning Commission,

I am writing to ask you to reject the proposed Vickery Extension Project near Boggabri.

There are many reasons to reject the project, but in the end, they boil down to the same thing: the preservation of life, be that human life or the biodiversity that is so critical for human life.

Firstly, the impacts on water will be severe. Even the Department of Planning admits the new Vickery mine might run out of water in dry times. Although, will it? Whitehaven Coal has a proven track record of water theft, diverting water directly from farming.

Even when it is not direct theft, Whitehaven Coal, using their considerable corporate buying power, have previously outbid farmers for water rights. How, I ask, are farms to produce food to sustain human life without water? Or with water that is poisoned by the leaching of heavy metals into the Namoi alluvial aquifer? Further, farms are being bought up in the Boggabri region by Whitehaven as a potential tactical maneuver to provide the illusion of community support that simply isn't there, further reducing the capacity of the region to provide food for Australia's ever-increasing population.

As if food and water security were not enough of an immediate threat, the Vickery Extension Project will add 370 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, putting all Australians at risk of extreme weather and dangerous fires. The science is in. There is no disputing the imminent threat of increased extreme weather events and loss of life posed by our continued reliance on fossil fuels.

The smart money on the sharemarket is rapidly moving towards renewables. The smart international economies are rapidly transitioning to renewables. There are more jobs to be had and way more opportunities for Australia to become a world leader in renewable energy technology than the death throes of the fossil fuel sector. More coal is simply fiscally irresponsible.

To say I am deeply concerned about the nature of the proposed project is an understatement. I urge you again, beg of you, to reject the Vickery Extension Project near Boggabri for the sake of not only future generations, but for our own.

Thank you for your consideration of my statement.

Yours sincerely,

Kel Raison

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