



Massive meeting puts message simply

By **DONNA SAWYER**

MORE than 500 people gathered at the site of the proposed Anvil Hill coalmine yesterday to lobby the State Government to reject the project.

People from across NSW travelled to Denman to oppose the planned coalmine, forming a giant human sign reading "Save Anvil Hill".

The protest was organised by Greenpeace and community groups ahead of an imminent decision by the State Government regarding the mine proposal.

Guest speakers at the protest included Hunter Valley winery

owners and doctors, who spoke of deteriorating water quality and a rising number of asthma sufferers in the region.

Greenpeace head of campaigns Stephen Campbell said many of the protesters were from the Hunter.

"There are people here from all walks of life," Mr Campbell said.

"There are local people, including farmers, who are sick of the dust caused by big open-cut mines and people from Sydney and Canberra who are concerned about the climate change impacts caused by new coalmines."

Greens Senator Kerry Nettle said the protest sent a clear message to the Government at state and federal levels to get serious about tackling climate change.

"If the (State) Government was serious about addressing climate change, they would not be signing off on new coalmines such as Anvil Hill," she said.

"The Federal Government needs to invest in clean energy, which can provide more job prospects than the coal industry."



LOBBY: Pam Lazenby on her Denman property with other protesters. — Picture by Simone De Peak.



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UNITED: Hundreds of people form a sign at the site of the proposed coalmine at Anvil Hill yesterday.

— Picture by Luis Ascui and Greenpeace