



Gloucester Environment Group Inc

PO Box 134, Gloucester, NSW, 2422

Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems & Approvals
Dept of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

28 October, 2013

Dear Sir,

ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SSD-5156

The Gloucester Environment Group opposes the application by Gloucester Resources Ltd (GRL) for an open cut mine close to the township of Gloucester on a number of grounds.

Water – the proposed mine site is located on and near to the Avon River and covers part of the flood plain. (If requested we would be happy to provide photographs of the river in flood). The Avon River is part of the catchment area for the Manning River, which is the source of water for a large area of the mid North Coast, and should be protected at all cost. The geology of this area is very fractured, and any mining risks affecting the aquifers and the water table. This conclusion has also been reached by Professor Philip Pells, who has undertaken extensive investigation into this aspect. Surely the “precautionary principal” should be invoked when assessing this application.

Location – the proposed main extraction area is located in an area designated by Gloucester Shire Council for Environmental Conservation, and is close to residential properties, viz

- Within 900– 1800 m of the Forbesdale Estate, with 35 rural/residential properties
- 1.8 to 2.5 kms from the Thunderbolts and Avon View residential estates
- 1.8 to 2.5 kms from the Bucketts Way, with many rural/residential properties

Your government has passed legislation which does not allow coal seam gas wells or wind farms within 2 kms of a residence. Surely this should also apply to coal mines, as the effects on residents will be, if anything, worse?

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Air Quality- the effects of coal dust, especially on children's health, have been well documented in the Singleton area, and a need for a radius of more than 5 kms is now well supported. The proposed mine is far too close to both local primary schools and the high school, as well as the Hospital. Additionally movement of coal by train will affect those people living alongside the train lines. At present legislation only refer to particles over 10 microns, whilst evidence indicates that sub 2.5 to 1 micron particles can travel many kilometres, and can enter the bloodstream through the lungs.

Noise – the noise of blasting, train loading and movements is of great concern. The effects of blasting will be felt by residents many kilometres from the site.

Economics – GRL asserts that they will provide work for local people, but we suggest that whilst there may be a few unqualified positions, the majority of the workforce would be made up of personnel with previous experience / qualifications, who for the most part would be “drive in/drive out” workers. We believe that in many instances, where people have moved to an area to obtain employment, they have been classified as “local”, which is patently not correct. There are local companies who have already indicated that if the mining goes ahead, they will relocate their operations, with the subsequent loss of employment.

Tourism – tourism currently accounts for an income of around \$30 million to the area, which would be lost, if this were to become a mining town, as opposed to a town with a mine.

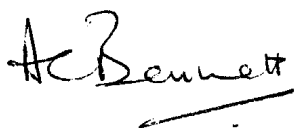
Expansion – historically once mines have been approved, they eventually seek expansion, and we feel that this poses a major threat to the township of Gloucester and the people living along the Bucketts Way.

Flora and Fauna - the mine poses a threat to local threatened flora and fauna, such as the grey-crowned babbler, squirrel gliders, and possibly the brush-tailed phascogale, and remnant areas of dry rain forest, which have been listed as a Vulnerable Ecological Community.

The Gloucester Environment Group also endorses the submissions made by Gloucester Shire Council, Gloucester Residents in Partnership (GRIP) and the Barrington-Gloucester Stroud Preservation Alliance (GRIP), and we call upon you to reject this application.

The area is currently predominately a farming area, with many people having moved here to enjoy the peaceful environment and lifestyle, and is a major tourism centre, and it should be allowed to remain so.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Carol Bennett (Mrs)

Secretary
Gloucester Environment Group