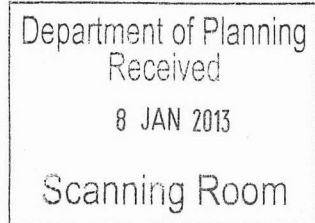


Director, Mining and Industry Projects  
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney 2001

19 December 2012



Dear Director,



**RE: SSD 4966 Stratford Extension Project - Noise impact on the Tourism Sector.**

I represent a group of tourism operators in the Gloucester valley region who conduct their business within the same valley as the Stratford coal mine. We object most strongly to the proposal that the operating hours of the mine revert to 24 hour operations.

The reason is simple: that the operations of a short-term unsustainable sector of our local economy should not put at risk the entire economic contributions of a long-term sustainable sector operating within the same valley.

**About Gloucester**

In marketing terms Gloucester has an unbeatable brand positioning of being the closest town to Barrington Tops (our tourism slogan is 'Basecamp for Barrington Tops'). This unique selling proposition is immensely strengthened by the World Heritage listing of this national park. On top of this world-recognised accolade, the Vale of Gloucester has been listed by the National Trust since 1975, a declared 'significant heritage landscape.' So tourism in Gloucester is inextricably linked to the scenic beauty of peaceful valleys and forested mountain tops.

**Tourism's economic contribution**

Tourism is one of the critical economic drivers for the Gloucester region, specifically listed as a key opportunity for the next 10 years in achieving long-term financial sustainability for our region.<sup>1</sup> Tourism generates revenues over \$30 million for the Gloucester local government area which is retained in this region and churned back into the local economy<sup>2</sup>. In an advertisement placed in this week's local paper<sup>3</sup>, Stratford Coal's General Manager Mike Smith states that the Stratford Extension Project will contribute \$24 million to the local economy. Of course this claim is unsubstantiated but even if it were true, does this justify putting at risk the \$30 million generated by another sector?

**Our position**

*Tourism Advancing Gloucester* is outraged at the application by Stratford Coal Pty Ltd to operate 24 hours a day, for the next 11 years!<sup>4</sup> On quiet rural land, any noise travels easily and Gloucester's steep-sided valleys push the sounds of trains and heavy machinery to the far corners of the valley.

<sup>1</sup> Gloucester Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2012-2022: Direction Three: Creating a strong economy, pp 39-41

<sup>2</sup> Destination NSW: Travel to Gloucester Local Government Area, 4 year average annual to Sep 2011  
[http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0013/74101/Gloucester-LGA-profile.pdf](http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/74101/Gloucester-LGA-profile.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Gloucester Advocate 19 Dec 2012, pg 6, published by Regional Publishers Pty Ltd.

<sup>4</sup> NSW Dept Planning & Infrastructure classifieds advertisement in Gloucester Advocate 28 Nov 2012

### **The risk to Gloucester Tourism**

*Tourism Advancing Gloucester* believes that noise impact from mining is detrimental to Gloucester's brand: the soothing peace and quiet of our region is what draws visitors here and is an essential component of our town's marketing. The increased mining noise will impact on our visitor's peaceful enjoyment of the region, with immediate knock-on affect against visitor satisfaction, against word-of-mouth recommendations, against visitor numbers and against the economic contribution of tourism to Gloucester. That's at least \$30 million worth every year, for many years beyond the eventual closure of Stratford Coal Mine when the coal has run out.

### **Why 24 hours a day?**

At the November 2012 meeting of the Gloucester Chamber of Commerce, Stratford Coal's Mike Smith was asked "Why do you need 24 hour operations?" He responded "Because it's there and it's worth a lot of money." Well, the coal will still be there and still be worth a lot of money, even if they dig it up for 10 hours, 12 hours even 14 hours a day.

But please, please, 24 hours a day is a cruel punishment for our rural region. It punishes the long-suffering locals who've lived with, but loathed, the current mining operations; it punishes the visitors who choose to come to our region because they believe we respect and protect our region's heritage-listed gems; and it punishes the local tourism operators who believe they are contributing to a sustainable industry sector that delivers jobs and the multiplier effect of \$30 million, churned back into the local community, into perpetuity.

### **Our plea**

I urge you to reject the proposal for 24 hour operations from Stratford Coal Pty Ltd. Please limit any approval to levels that are bearable. 24 hours is not bearable. The constant rumbling of heavy mining machinery and trains and is not conducive to a relaxed rural holiday, so every decibel heard is a scream against Gloucester tourism.

Sincerely,



Thomas Davey  
Chairperson, Tourism Advancing Gloucester  
c/- Gloucester Visitor Information Centre  
27 Denison Street, Gloucester NSW 2422  
m. 0408 277 443

**Mission Statement for Tourism Advancing Gloucester:**  
*Harnessing the strength of tourists and day-trippers to sustainably grow all small businesses in Gloucester.*

BARRINGTON...  
TOPS!



# Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

<b>Disclosure statement details</b>				
Name of person making this disclosure  <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">THOMAS DAVEY</div>		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description)  <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SSD 4966</div>		
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)				
You are the APPLICANT      YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO      OR      You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO				
<b>Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons</b>				
* State below any reportable political donations <b>you have made</b> over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN). * If you are the <b>applicant</b> of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR * If you are a <b>person making a submission</b> in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.				
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.				
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.				
Signature(s) and Date <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">Tom Davey</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">19/dec/12</div>				
Name(s) <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">THOMAS DAVEY</div>				