

Paul Freeman - Gloucester Coal Extension

From: "jane stevenson" <janestevenson6@bigpond.com>
To: <Paul.Freeman@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: Thursday, 24 January 2013 11:50 AM
Subject: Gloucester Coal Extension
CC: "Jane Stevenson" <janestevenson6@bigpond.com>

My name is Jane Stevenson. I live at Gloucester 2422

I object to the extension of any operations at the Stratford mine owned by Gloucester coal.

I have now learned that your department has disabled, or failed to maintain, the website on which people may make submissions. It is hard not to believe that this is a deliberate strategy of the Department in order to disenfranchise residents who wish to make submissions, and a means whereby the department can claim very few submissions objecting to the mine were received. In few of the website's failure the LEAST the department can do is grant an extension of time for submissions. There does not appear to be any sort of 'level playing field' where mining and the NSW government are concerned.

I object to the extension of Stratford operations.

Since the very beginning of the mine's existence the mine has used 'thin edge of the wedge' tactics to increase its operations. It goes for a 'tiny' extension of operations, and as soon as that is approved, they go for more.

The health issue, the proximity of the mine to Stratford school, the unrelenting noise of the mining infrastructure, the glare of lighting for kilometres around that they make no attempt to shield, the constant movement of coal trains and the dust therefrom, the loss of property values because of the mine, the list goes on and on and adds up to the amenity of life, the prosperity and health of a generation of residents has already been compromised. The heartbreak and stress that I have seen first hand working as a pharmacist in Gloucester is real and distressing. I am reliably told that even the real estate agents will no longer list any property to the south of Gloucester, where the mines are, because said properties are 'unsaleable' unless, of course, if the mine happens to want the land for its own purposes.

The NSW government has, for years, used the letter of the law to permit mining to take place in areas where it should never be even considered, and it has done so by allowing the mines to run roughshod over the government's own people. The sense of shame seems to be non-existent, the Eddie Obeids of this world have the upper hand, and decent people such as the residents of Gloucester are hung out to dry by their own representatives.

The bureaucrats say they are just doing their job (you too, perhaps) but one day there will be a reckoning of all this, and those who have aided the expansion of mining to the detriment of the health of the citizens will be personally held accountable.

Can't wait, bring it on

Jane Stevenson, Pharmacist (ret) Gloucester NSW