

Paul Freeman

Senior Planner Mining Projects
Dept of Planning & Infrastructure

I **object** to the current proposal to extend the Stratford Coal operation for the following reasons:

Pressure of 24-hour mining on quality of life on residents of Stratford and Craven is **discriminatory**. Many supporters of the proposal are employees and do not live in the area affected by their work.

Much vaunted **economic benefits are illusory**. Money contributed to council is compulsory and does not compensate the affected community and that to local organizations largely tokenism. Mining jobs that have been created take no account of the many lost when unwilling families are forced to leave. Property values continue to drop and agricultural businesses uncompensated.

Coal **yield measured against environmental footprint** is paltry.

Dust monitoring of fine particles (the dangerous ones) is not available here.

Rehabilitation is almost always **window dressing** with only minimal topsoil replaced, and that on non-harmonious base. Voids are filled with waste and others with permanently contaminated water that can leach into aquifers.

Distressing gap between good intentions, should they be present, and the ability of governance to see them carried out.

Helen Gillard

**Mill Creek Vineyard
Stroud**