

594 Glen Road  
Craven 2422

18/01/2013

The Director General  
Department of Planning  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

RECEIVED

25 JAN 2013

Director-General

Dear Sir,

Re: Stratford Coal Extension Application Number SSD 4966

I wish to make clear my opposition to the granting of the above application for the extension of the Yancoal operation, Stratford Coal, open cut mine.

As a resident who has been exposed to noise and dust both from mining and from the Coal Handling and Processing Plant at Stratford I am horrified to contemplate the thought of mining coming so close to our home in Glen Road. I am strongly opposed to 24/7 mining which is a complete disregard of the local population and should not be necessary to keep the company viable.

Already the submission of plans for the extension has affected the value and saleability of our home just when we are getting close to being forced to put it on the market because of the physical difficulty of maintaining it at our time of life. As age pensioners, we do not have the financial resources to employ the labour required. We are not within the area where we can negotiate with Yancoal for the purchase of our property and, of course, the O'Farrell government has not seen fit to introduce compensation for residents adversely affected by mining.

The depreciation of the investment in our property and the difficulty of finding a buyer even at two thirds of its depressed market value is just one example of the adverse effect open cut mining is having on the economy of this region.

The EIS which accompanies this Application has been found by experts in the community and Gloucester Council to have grave faults and omissions and gives an account completely biased in favour of the applicant. This is true even of the economic section which is supposed to study the alternative condition of the local economy if the application is not successful.

I am astonished that the Technical Appendix displays a photograph of a covered coal wagon, apparently intended to give the impression that Yancoal cares for the community! There is no mention of their intention to cover coal wagons, as the community has requested, and the photograph is misleading.

This is an agricultural area and should be protected as such. Food production is approaching crisis in Australia and governments should not be giving priority to non-sustainable industries which are also being proved to be damaging to the health of the surrounding population. The costs to government in health, food production and the increase of greenhouse gases should be weighed against the small income to the NSW government. The closure of this mine, as Yancoal threatens it would do if this

extension is not granted, would be of greater economic benefit to NSW in the long term than granting its extension.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patricia McCalden'.

Patricia McCalden