

Sophie Butcher - Submission opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

From: Sonja Sontag <sontag@hotmail.com.au>
To: <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/10/2013 10:37 PM
Subject: Submission opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my opposition to the Rocky Hill coal project on the following grounds:

- Proximity to residential areas of Gloucester

The mine is proposed only 900 metres from the residential area of Forbesdale. These residents will carry an unacceptable burden and will be impacted by dust, noise and loss of visual amenity, resulting in risks to their health and also loss of property value. There is no assurance that if approved Rocky Hill mine would not advance closer to residential areas – with greater impacts.

- Impacts on Health

Health impacts from open cut coal mines are well known. Most of Gloucester township (including the hospital and schools) falls within the acknowledged 5km health impact zone of the Rocky Hill mine – thus placing a large proportion of the population at risk. Those most affected by the health impacts are our children, the old and the sick.

- Impact on other industries in the Gloucester Valley

An open cut coal mine within 5km of Gloucester and within sight of the Bucketts Way will have a major adverse impact on the visual amenity of the area. Tourism is currently worth over \$30M to the Gloucester economy. It will be impacted with a resultant loss of jobs and income generated in the township.

Additionally, the Rocky Hill project is already adversely impacting on Gloucester's agriculture having led to the loss of food-producing land, loss of employment and incomes and loss of business for those companies supporting agriculture.

- Environment

The location of the proposed Rocky Hill mine is on the Avon River floodplain, and in the water catchment area of the Manning River which supplies drinking water to over 80,000 people. The Avon River has flooded 5 times in 4 years, with 2 floods occurring in February this year. There is real potential for contamination of the water in the catchment.

- Cumulative Impacts

If approved, the Rocky Hill coal mine won't be operating in isolation in the Gloucester Valley. Yancoal has requested expansion of its mine at Stratford and AGL is planning on 330 CSG wells in the Valley – many of AGL's wells are to be placed within the Rocky Hill mine and the Stratford mine area. No other area in NSW has coal and CSG companies fighting over the same piece of land. To not consider the cumulative impacts of this mining is reckless and irresponsible.

I have not made a reportable political donation.

Yours sincerely, Sonja Sontag New South Wales 2430, Australia