

**Matthew DiMaggio - Submission opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156**

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**From:** Penelope Drake-Brockman <penny@pennydb.org>  
**To:** <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 9/10/2013 6:39 PM  
**Subject:** Submission opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

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Dear Sir,

I am appalled at the possibility that the Rocky Hill open-cut coal mine is likely to go ahead, on the following grounds:

- Proximity to residential areas of Gloucester

This is close to many residences, including new sub-divisions built up over the past ten years. Already people have seen the value of their homes decline by as much as 30%. The noise and dust from all night activities, day-time vehicle movements, diesel fumes and noise of detonations will make life a misery for anyone within a few kilometers of the site.

There are schools and a hospital with aged care buildings very near the site. The health impacts from open cut coal mines are well known. Most of Gloucester falls within the acknowledged 5km health impact zone of the Rocky Hill mine. Those most affected by the health impacts are our children, the old and the sick.

There is already a huge loss to agriculture by the mine buying up large areas of grazing land, and threatening the remaining with dust and noise pollution and the accompanying loss of agricultural jobs. These are on-going jobs, not like the short-term jobs that a mine offers. The mine will ruin the Avon beautiful valley and have a very bad effect on the tourist industry, which is huge in this area, worth millions annually, and attracts internationally attention.

With the two mines that are already operating, Stratford and Durallie, and constantly submitting additional proposals to increase their sizes, the area will be an open cut hell for many years to come. Remediation takes years and can never replace what was trashed. Over the likely 30 or more years of operation, the local fauna and flora will die, mammals and birds can't just go away and come back when the mines close – they cannot move to other areas – these are already fully occupied. There are endangered and vulnerable species that will face local extinction, and the government just does not care. Why do we have such short-term planning in this country?

Yours sincerely, Penelope Drake-Brockman New South Wales 2422, Australia