

Matthew DiMaggio - Submission Opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

From: Kyle Harvey <kyle.a.harvey@gmail.com>
To: <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/11/2013 12:10 PM
Subject: Submission Opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

NOTE These are Dept of Planning MANDATORY fields.

My NAME is: Kyle Harvey

My Full ADDRESS is: 1A Munni St, Newtown NSW 2042

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

1. Proximity to residential areas of Gloucester

The proposed mine is located only 900 metres from the residential area of Forbesdale. Living close to coal mines isn't healthy, and local residents will be adversely affected by dust, noise and loss of visual amenity. Health risks and a decline in property values will result. There has been no assurance that if approved, the Rocky Hill mine would not advance closer to residential areas – with greater impacts. A similar situation is currently playing out in the Supreme Court between Rio Tinto and residents of Bulga, NSW, regarding the expansion of the Warkworth Mine closer to residential areas.

1. 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.

1. 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 adversely affected 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.

1. 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.

1. 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 Coal Seam Gas (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.

1. Climate change

It is well documented that the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, contributes to climate change. New coal mines, such as Rocky Hill, will only contribute to this severe problem. It ought to be the responsibility of the NSW government to refuse approval to new mines whose products – coal – will inevitably harm the environment.

I have not made a reportable political donation.

Yours sincerely, Kyle Harvey Sydney NSW 2042, Australia