

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

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**From:** Sharyn Munro <sharyn@sharynmunro.com>  
**To:** <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 9/12/2013 10:21 AM  
**Subject:** Submission Opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

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NOTE These are Dept of Planning MANDATORY fields.

My NAME is: Sharyn Munro

My Full ADDRESS is: PO Box 647 Singleton NSW 2330 (NFP)

Dear Sir, I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Mine Project. It is an unthinkable site for an opencut mine and ought never to have had an EL over it.

It's too close. The mine boundary will be only 900metres from the Forbesdale Residential Estate of 35 families. Those families will experience unacceptable levels of noise, dust, and traffic. They have already lost their peaceful, rural lifestyle with this threat. Many have chosen not to improve their homes because they no longer have any value. Many had seen their move there as their last home. Many have had physical and mental health problems because of this stress.

No one wants or should have to live next door to an open-cut coal mine. The only possible buyer would be the mining company, GRL and they don't want them.

I know from experience and from interviewing hundreds of impacted residents who live near coal mines that noise is the biggest problem: the noise of the mine workings and machinery and loading trains, and the infrasound/low frequency noise (ILFN) from heavy diesel machinery. Infrasound causes sleep disturbances and can lead to major health complaints, particularly for older people or those with heart conditions. MidWestern Council is now very concerned about this specific health issue from their escalating mines. The Rocky Hill mine will cause high levels of noise for residents close to the mine but also unacceptable levels of noise for residents in Gloucester town. ILFN is not blocked by hills or walls and can be worse at quite long distances away from its source; 7 kms that I personally know of . Placing conditions such as monitoring or measuring or attempts at managing will not stop the noise impact for the residents of Gloucester.

The serious negative health impacts from the 'dust' from open cut coal mines are well known. Look at the Upper Hunter; Singleton and Muswellbrook are some of the most polluted areas in Australia from coal, consequently with acknowledged above average levels of respiratory illnesses, heart attacks, strokes and certain cancers. 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. Are the people of Gloucester just collateral damage?

The Vale of Gloucester is famous for its tranquil beauty and peaceful country lifestyle and that is what attracts visitors. 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.

Mines do not create jobs for the unemployed; they suck workers from other local industries.

Companies in town are already experiencing the negative impacts of having a mine nearby. One company lost 11 apprentices to the Stratford mine, down the valley.

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.

The cumulative impacts of this proposed mine must be taken into account. Not doing so is how the Upper Hunter has been ruined. 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, Sharyn Munro New South Wales 2330, Australia