

Name: Guy Ahern
Address: 674 Bowman
River Road Gloucester
13/10/2013

Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems & Approvals
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir

ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SSD-5156

I oppose the Gloucester Resources Ltd's development application for an open cut coal mine near the Gloucester township. My reasons follow:

Noise and Health. This mine is far too close to Gloucester and the Forbesdale Estate. Noise and coal dust from coal train movements and loading - potentially at night - is a great concern. Very fine coal dust is a critical issue that GRL has not attended to - and which appears to be outside of the NSW government's interest. No one seems to be dealing with the sub 2.5 to 1 micron particles - yet these are the ones that travel furthest in the air and are able to enter the bloodstream through the lungs.

Children's Health. The overwhelming medical evidence indicates that coal dust WILL elevate the number of children suffering long term effects of asthma. A radius of more than 5km is now well recognised and supported by medical practitioner statistics that show the clear relationship between asthma cases and distance from coal mines in Singleton. Gloucester township, schools and hospital are all in the direct path of coal dust borne on southerly winds.

Further Expansion. I do not believe that the mine will stay at its proposed size. GRL will expand towards town and will seek to mine coal on its other two exploration licence areas along the Bucketts Way.

Economics. I do not accept that GRL's economic assertions that their forced entry into Gloucester will be good for Gloucester's economy which currently relies on agriculture, tourism and retiree 'tree-changers', new light industry and community support services. Tourists and tree-changers are attracted to Gloucester because of its natural and agricultural beauty and peace. These industries will be damaged and jobs will be lost.

Rehabilitation cannot be achieved. The geology cannot be 'put back'. GRL will permanently damage geology and its water systems. They will bring to the surface and discard waste coal. Potentially 30% of what is mined becomes a legacy contaminant for someone other than GRL to worry about.

There is no state reason to mine this coal and there is no sane reason to damage this valley and community.

Please refuse GRL's application.

Guy Ahern