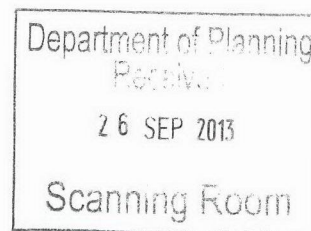


PCU048240

93 Ashworth Avenue
Belrose 2085

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



Dear Sir

Re: ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT Application No. SSD 5156

I oppose this proposal: my reasons follow.

My wife and I are reasonably regular visitors to beautiful Gloucester and the Barrington Tops area and we are greatly saddened at the prospect of a new coal mine in the valley to the south of Gloucester. If it goes ahead it will destroy the beautiful vista that we always enjoy, looking across the Avon Valley and to the Mograni Range. Gloucester, being the gateway to the magnificent rainforests of Barrington Tops National Park, should be protected.

We have learned that the National Park forms part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia's World Heritage Area. Carved out of ancient volcanic flows, the park rises from near sea level to over 1500m and protects one of the largest temperate rainforests in mainland Australia, along with a host of diverse habitats and wide range of birds and animals. That's why we and many others visit Gloucester. In our view, it is essential this is protected.

If the mine proceeds then my wife and I will probably not want to visit this area again. If many others share our view, then too bad for the tourism operators, the farmers, the people and businesses of Gloucester. I'm told some surveys showed that well over 80% of Gloucester people don't want this mine and my wife and I support their opposition to it. Are these people just expendable, collateral damage? Is it really all just about mining fossil fuel?

I am worried too about the safety travelling along the Bucketts Way if the mine should go ahead. It is presently a single-lane road, in parts narrow and in poor condition and, I recall, with no overtaking lanes. More vehicles, trucks and tankers travelling along it will potentially put road users in extreme danger.

I have made no political donations whatsoever. This letter reflects my views on the subject.

Yours faithfully

Ronald Furness