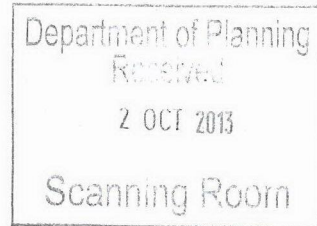


PCU048419

John and Susan Watts
7 Wright Close,
Gloucester NSW 2422.

The Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment System and Approvals
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001.



Dear Sir,

RE: ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SSD – 5156

We are writing to strongly oppose and object to the development application by Gloucester Resources Limited (GRL) for an open cut mine adjacent to the township of Gloucester.

It is quite amazing that GRL should consider that it is appropriate to build an open cut mine within such a short distance of residential estates. The residents of Gloucester have had a reasonable expectation that the beautiful amenity of their town would remain. This proposal would destroy much of the amenity of the town and there are significant community concerns relating to health, the environment, and the water and soil systems. The mine would jeopardise many long term self sustaining industries that have been present in the community for many years.

Gloucester has much natural beauty surrounding it and relies heavily upon the tourist and agricultural industries. These industries will be placed at significant risk if this development proceeds.

It is largely a myth that this mining project would provide significant employment to the local community. History demonstrates that many employees of such projects drive in and drive out of town from elsewhere. On the other hand, the jobs of many people in the mining and tourist industry would be threatened by the project.

It is difficult to see how the project can be economically sustainable having regard to the fact that coalmining operations at other mines around the country are being scaled back or suspended.

We are very concerned about the adverse environmental impact of this mine. Gloucester is often subjected to windy conditions and there is no doubt that on a hot dry day coal dust would be blown over all the residences of Gloucester.

We are concerned about the noise which would be generated from this coal mine from both blasting and loading and train activity. There is no doubt that many Gloucester residents will be significantly affected by these activities.

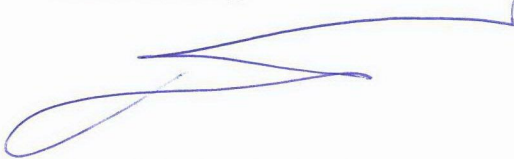
We feel particularly sorry for people who have bought houses in and around the Forbesdale Estate. This is within two kilometers of the proposed mine and their lifestyle and land values will be devastated if the mine is allowed to proceed. Such people will of course receive no compensation.

As has been said by others there is no rational reason why the Gloucester Valley should be permanently damaged for the comparatively small resource being sort – and the highly questionably benefit touted as flowing to the State and local economies. In our view there will be no net benefit to this community.

We ask that this proposal be refused.

We have made no reportable political donations.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John Watts', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JOHN & SUSAN WATTS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Susan Watts', with a horizontal line underneath.