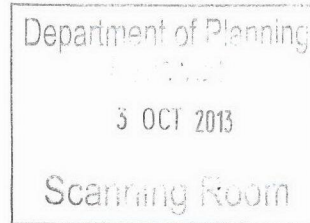


PCU048447

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

Linda Benson
Bucketts Road, Gloucester NSW 2422
September 24, 2013



Dear Sir

ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SSD-5156

I write to lodge my objection to this project. I live approximately 2.5 kms from the proposed project. I have asthma and know that coal particles/dust affect those of us with this and indeed other respiratory, diseases.

My family has lived here for many years. We have children and grandchildren that were born here and I am worried for their future. Coal dust can travel anywhere. The trains transporting coal are not covered. GRL has stated "there will be between 4 and 16 heavy vehicle movements per day". They have not stated there will be any curfew on rail movements.

They also state that "the risks of health impacts at all receptors surrounding the Site and within the Gloucester Township are within acceptable levels." I ask what are these acceptable levels? They are not explained and their statement does not allay my concerns.

These concerns relate to personal health, children's health and as well as the environment and permanent damage to water and soil systems.

This is a beautiful place and many people come here simply because of this. Tourism has expanded in recent years as well as agribusinesses and agriculture. The industries are also threatened.

Like many country towns creating jobs is a major issue. GRL has stated that there will be many employment 'opportunities for Gloucester'. They have not said what jobs would be filled for locals. Opportunities are not jobs. The experience we have seen with the existing coal mine, and other mines throughout the Hunter, is that mining jobs are commonly filled by drive-in-drive-out workers and these people do not spend much of their income in Gloucester.

Many people moved up here to fulfil their life's dream. They moved into areas such as Forbesdale Estate and surrounding areas, all of which are about 2 kms from town. They are ~~not~~ heartbroken. The visual and noise pollution they will have to endure if the mine proceeds will impact heavily on them. They cannot move because nobody wants to purchase a property so near a coal mine.

GRL says that they have planted many trees and that they will rehabilitate the area at the end of the project. When is this 'end'? In our experience with the existing mine, coal companies when approaching the end of their licence normally apply for extensions, which are normally granted. Their statement regarding rehabilitation cannot be taken seriously. How do you rehabilitate damaged water tables? Or soil ecosystems? Bring back to life birds that have died drinking from contaminated water? What about the impact of contaminated water and coal dust on cattle feed? I eat meat and do not want to eat meat that has consumed coal dust. What about the dairy farmers? How can they keep the coal dust off their paddocks?

These are just some of the reasons why I object to this project. There are more. I am not in the habit of writing letters of objection and have not supported any political party or candidate with financial or other contributions.

Sincerely

Linda Benson (Mrs)