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Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems & Approvals
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
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Dear Sir

Submission re Rocky Hill Coal Project - Application No SSD-5156

I wish to express my opposition to the Rocky Hill mine project on the following grounds:

1. Proximity to residential areas

The mine is proposed only 900 metres from the residential area of Forbesdale. These residents will carry an unacceptable burden and will be impacted by dust, noise and loss of visual amenity, resulting in risks to their health and also loss of property value.

2. Impacts on Health

Health impacts from open cut coal mines are well known and with most of Gloucester township (including the hospital and schools) falling within the 5km health impact zone of the Rocky Hill mine this places a large percentage of the population at risk. Those most affected by the health impacts are the very young, the old and the sick.

3. Impact on other industries in the Gloucester Valley

An open cut coal mine within 5km of Gloucester and within sight of the Bucketts Way will have an impact on the visual amenity of the area. Tourism is currently worth over \$30M to the Gloucester economy and this is likely to be impacted with a resultant loss of jobs. Additionally, mining displaces agriculture and leads to the loss of food-producing land and the people who farmed the land.

4. Environment

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, and there is potential for contamination of the water in the catchment.

5. Cumulative Impacts

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 those wells are to be placed inside both the Rocky Hill mine and the Stratford mine. 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.

Yours faithfully,

A. Baumann

Date: 17-10-10

☒ I have not made a reportable political donation.