

## Paul Freeman - Rocky Hill Mine

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**To:** <paul.freeman@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 22 October 2013 10:54 AM  
**Subject:** Rocky Hill Mine  
**CC:** <bgspalliance@yahoo.com.au>

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Mr Freeman

Please accept our submission against the Rocky Hill Mine, as part of the EIS. We submit the following list of objections and in addition submit that the mine should not be allowed. Because in the long run the land torn up by the mine is never returned to its previous state, regardless of the restitution efforts. One only has to look at the length of time it has taken for sand mining on our coastal areas and old coal mining areas in the Hunter to see that restitution does not work and creates a false and artificial geography.

Additionally the effect on the social wellbeing of residents who have moved to the area for its "country style amenity" is not properly costed into the negative impacts of mining, and they should be.

So my submission is the above and also repeats the following objections:

- The mine is located too close to the residential areas of Gloucester and will have negative impacts on the town's amenity as well as on individual property values.
- Surrounding rural properties would be made unsaleable.
- Long-established agricultural activities would continue to be displaced.
- Too many aspects of mine operation and management of impacts have been left out of the EIS on the grounds that they would be covered in management plans that would not be developed until after the project is approved.
- No cost-benefit analysis of the project has been presented.
- Potential royalties to the State appear to be greatly overestimated.
- The net employment increase for Gloucester residents would be small (only 15 - 30 jobs), which would be outweighed by the negative effects on the Gloucester community.
- Noise from the mine - especially intrusive low-frequency noise - would affect large numbers of residences in and around Gloucester, especially in the Forbesdale, Avon and Thunderbolts residential estates.
- Mine noise would commonly exceed the regulatory limits on winter nights.
- Proposed compensations for residents affected by noise are inadequate.
- Dust from the mine would have health and nuisance effects on hundreds of residents.
- Road traffic to and from the mine would be far greater than the existing local traffic, and would put unacceptable pressure on the Shire Council's road maintenance resources.
- The mine is located on a floodplain in the catchment of the Manning River, which supplies drinking water to major towns downstream.
- The potential impacts of the mine on sub-surface water are not adequately understood.
- The scenic values that the important tourism industry depends on would be seriously degraded.

- The mine would result in the clearing of remnants of dry rainforest, which is recognised as a vulnerable ecological community.
- The mine would have impacts on threatened birds and mammals, and would be likely to result in the complete loss of the populations of squirrel gliders and grey-crowned babblers currently in the proposed mine area.

Thank you for considering our submission.

John and Sue Hughes  
Glen Road , Craven