



Dear Director/Minister,

I purchased 240 acres in 1975 outside Gloucester. I have been visiting the area ever since with my girlfriend (now my wife), children and in the future hopefully with my grandchildren. The area is unique and off the beaten track, to say nothing of the beauty. Some things are worth saving untouched for the future, Gloucester and surrounds are one of those things.

This is a very personal submission – the specific evidence to support the scientific, health and environmental concerns I'm sure will be dealt with in other submissions.

If coal mining and coal seam gas mining are allowed to continue along the Bucketts Way – the changes will destroy the area. Gloucester and district will be slowly and surely assassinated over 20 years and will have nothing after the mines have extracted the final piece of so called valuable resource. Isn't Gloucester a valuable resource.

The local council.

Local councils hardly ever agree unanimously. Gloucester voted unanimously to reject the Rocky Hill mine. Yet you have overruled their vote because you know better than the locals what is best for them.

The locals.

This has split the town and split long held friendships. Whatever happens the town is fractured – fractured by outsiders need for money.

Jobs – some locals will get some of the low paid jobs. The percentage of jobs generated by tourism in the Gloucester district will be higher than the percentage of locals employed by the coal or coal seam gas companies.

Traffic – size and volume of traffic will make the drive dangerous and ruin the roads – goodbye tourism

Dust – the health science is there, it is bad for your health if you live in the area.

Rocky Hill mine is even closer to Gloucester than the guidelines suggest.

Noise – all day and night for 20 years. – Even though the mining companies say it is within guidelines – many neighbours who live there 24/7 disagree with the guideline writers who don't live there.

Beauty – planting trees and building green coloured barriers does little to enhance natural beauty and does nothing to encourage tourism or attracting people to the area. Goodbye tree changers that add so much to the economy and town.

Water – Coal mining will use so much water that the Avon Valley will have little water left. Coal seam gas fracking is still a long way from being environmentally a plus. In fact it has often been shown to damage water tables. But if mistakes are made the shareholders will not get such a good dividend while the future generations will never be able to farm or drink the water. We do live on the driest continent on the planet.

Agriculture – will be non-existent in the valley because all the farms have been bought and the land close to the mines will be unusable at least for 20 years.

Again for future generations. Apart from a couple of companies there has never been any successful rehabilitation of the land that has been returned to agriculture or grazing. All the land mined for coal will be useless for any other purpose.

Look, I don't know if you will take any notice of what I have written but I do know one thing for sure you have agreed to mining in the Gloucester area that will destroy the beauty of an area forever even though assurances have been given by the mining companies that everything will return after 20 years to the way it is now.

I know you won't be buying any property in the area to enjoy the area and its beauty.

I entreat you and your department to change your decision for mining in the Gloucester area.

I beg, implore you, to stop all coal and coal seam gas exploration and mining within 80 Kms of Gloucester town.

I feel like, if you don't have money you don't have a say, please let me have a say.

I know this is an emotional plea but the other pleas have been ignored and overridden by money, profits and development, with no thought of the future.

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