

**Paul Freeman - Rocky Hill Open Cut Coal Mine**

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**From:** "Linda Lowton" <lindal38@optusnet.com.au>  
**To:** "Paul Freeman (Planning)" <Paul.Freeman@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** Thursday, 24 October 2013 11:18 AM  
**Subject:** Rocky Hill Open Cut Coal Mine

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To: Paul Freeman  
Planning  
NSW Government

Hello Paul

I am strongly opposed to the planned Rocky Hill Open Cut Coal Mine at Gloucester for the following reasons:

1. I believe the mine is located too close to residential areas of Gloucester and will have negative impacts on the town's amenity as well as on individual property values.
2. I believe that surrounding rural properties would be made either unsaleable or reduce their value. I live on my small family property at Gloucester and fear the consequences of this mine. I have owned this property since 1978.
3. Long-established agricultural activities would continue to be displaced. This is evidenced by the number of farms which have already been bought by the mine.
4. It appears that 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. Too late for us in the Valley.
5. It seems that the net employment increase for Gloucester residents would be small, which would be outweighed by the negative effects on the Gloucester community. The mining company claims local jobs but lots of miners move here to take the jobs as they are already experienced. They are then classed as local by the company.
6. 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. It is extremely unfair of a Government to subject these people to these stresses when these Estates were allowed to be developed and sold without these peoples' knowledge of a mine.
7. I believe that mine noise could commonly exceed the regulatory limits on winter nights.
8. Dust from the mine would have health and nuisance effects on hundreds of residents. I have mild asthma already and should not have to put up with coal particles floating across my land and home. As we often have heavy fogs in winter, when combined with coal dust, this would be extremely bad for health.
9. 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.

10. The mine is located on a floodplain in the catchment of the Manning River, which supplies drinking water to major towns downstream. I believe it is unfair of our Government to subject people to the risk of polluted water from either coal or CSG. I have heard no mention of who fixes any problem with drinking water should it arise. I have a strong suspicion that MidCoast Water would have to and then pass the cost on to consumers.

11. The scenic values that the important tourism industry depends on would be seriously degraded. I appreciate that the company is planting barriers but people (including locals) enjoy the vista of the farms and open valley. This is what they come to see. What will there be to look at with barriers along the roads? We already have this with CSG down at Wisemantels and the vista is now very ugly.

12. GRL states there will be no void left - how silly do they think we are? How can a hole be filled when billions of tons of product are removed? Are they going to flatten the remaining hills? I would like to see evidence of any mine that has been rehabilitated. I toured the mine at Broke to see the rehabilitated area and we were only shown the top of a small hill that had been smoothed over. The huge holes still remain.

13. I know that some people believe the economics will be good for Gloucester but I can only see this being good for the mining company taking our resource to China and I don't believe they will care one iota for the town or locals when the coal is gone and we are left with a big mess like over in the Hunter Valley.

Kind regards

Linda Lowton

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