



Please delete my personal
Information before publishing

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



Dear Sir

Submission to Proposed Rocky Hill Coal Project –SSD -5156

I wish to make a submission to the proposed Rocky Hill Coal Project SSD -5156

I object to it on the following Grounds

We are full-time residents of [REDACTED]. I live with my wife and 2 young children aged 8 and 5. We have owned our property for 14 years, and when purchased there were no mining leases in place where GRL now occupy .

Our house is [REDACTED] the proposed mine and [REDACTED] from their proposed coal loader.

We strongly opposed the application of GRL's Rocky Hill mine due to the impacts of noise, light, dust, loss of visual amenity and destruction of property value that this mine and coal loader will have being in such close proximity to our residence.

We raise the following concerns on the data presented in the EIS.



Noise

From the EIS I believe our property will experience intrusive noise exceeding the proposed limits more than 10% of the time at some stage during the expected life of the project.

This level of noise is unacceptable and will have detrimental effects on the sleep patterns of all residents in the house but particularly on our two young children.

Noise from the proposed mining operations will be a considerable increase to the level of ambient noise we experience living in a peaceful rural environment.

From our experience we feel the noise level of the mine's operation will exceed their suggested levels & be exacerbated through the effects of easterly breezes and temperature inversions.

Noise in our valley travels a long distance. Examples of this are reversing beepers on tractors when silage is being stored away on a dairy (1300m to the east of us). Remote control aircraft noise from the airstrip (1400m to the east).

Impact and impulse noises such as rock on metal, metal on metal, reversing beepers have impacted us with the dismantling of the old timber mill (1400m to south of us, proposed site for coal loader) when dismantling was taking place during daylight hours.

Such noise also occurred when AGL were doing 24 hour drilling for their wells in proximity to the proposed Rocky Hill Mine.

Such noises have been acknowledged by AGL representatives as being the most intrusive. This led to AGL's drilling staff to limit such activities during night time hours.

We believe noise such as these examples will be experienced from the proposed mine/loader, from vehicle movements, reversing beepers, digging, blasting, all construction activities, conveyor belts, rail load out facility, the clanging of coal carriages, moving and falling of coal into carriages.

There will be an overall increase in the noise throughout the night and weekends as stated by the new mine's operating hours. The mine's hours of operation will dramatically increase the length of time and intensity of noise we currently experience.

Although we live on the main northern line, these are restricted to an average of 6 goods trains movements a day with the peak noise lasting for approximately 1 minute, and 6 XPT movements lasting approx 10 secs for peak noise. This leads to a total of 7 minutes approx we currently experience above our low ambient noise levels over a 24 hour cycle

NB. Note these noises we were aware of when purchasing our property.

As can be seen from our experience should the mine be approved it will have detrimental effects on noise levels in our valley and impact directly on our property destroying sleep patterns and placing undue stress and psychological disadvantage on our 2 young children.

Due to our elevated position above the valley floor, we do not believe the visibility barriers will reduce noise coming from the mine as it will only go up and out.

Double glazing is not a satisfactory outcome. We like having fresh air and windows open enjoying the easterly breeze.

The cost associated with running air conditioning with closed windows to cut down on noise and dust entering our residence will place an undue financial burden upon us with increased electricity charges which we cannot afford.

Wind

We challenge the wind data from GRL's weather station. We raise our concerns that there was no wind monitoring on the ridge where our own residence and others are located. Our own data collected, personal experience and visual sighting of the wind sock at the end of the airstrip (in the same vicinity as proposed Rocky Hill Mine) in front of us, revealed that the winds are predominantly from the east and south-east, and south. This will lead to dust from the mine and coal loader blowing across our property. It will also increase the level of noise that we are subjected to.

Temperature

We draw your attention to the fact that temperature readings have been taken from Chitchester Dam. This has no relevance to the Forbesdale area or specific mine development site. Failure to have accurate information does not demonstrate the possible temperature inversions that can happen in our valley. This is of great importance as noise can travel further distances when these temperature inversions occur.

Visual amenity

This proposal will destroy our commanding, elevated, 270 degree uninterrupted rural views of the Avon Valley.

To the east of our house we will be looking at 40m high overburden walls (visibility barrier) **990m** from our house and **836 m** from our boundary & from the south of our residence we will be looking on to the coal loader facility **1400m** away.

This development will emit considerable light pollution onto our property and our valley.

This along with all other mining activities, noise and blasting so close to our property will devalue it even further and destroy any potential future growth and saleability of our property.

This was demonstrated in 2008, 2010 when we had our property valued by our bank twice.

The first occasion was for our mortgage GRL did not own any property in front of us.

The second occasion was to consolidate a small amount debt. On this occasion GRL owned property in front us (proposed mine site). On this occasion the Valuer said the mine has devalued your property by their ownership of the land directly in front of us.

This was reported in the SMH Dated 26-27 Feb 2011 *Threat when mines move in next door*

Accumulative Effects

I do not feel the EIS adequately addresses the accumulative impacts that GRL'S proposed Rocky Hill Mine and AGL'S Waukivory Gas Project will have upon us. It doesn't adequately deal with the fact we could be subjected to two construction periods , how the developments will co exist, 24 hr drilling of 110 gas wells on top of mine development and construction activities.

Summary

We have demonstrated how we are impacted by small amounts of noise in our valley from sources that are the same distance the mine & loader facility will be away from us.

This will only increase to dramatic & destructive levels that will impact on our life style, sleep patterns and finances should this mine be approved.

There is only one outcome to take away the stress, anxiety, depression & despair that the GRL mining leases have caused since being in place!

That is not to allow the mine to go ahead and for all mining lease held by GRL to be revoked.

I'm not required to make a reportable political donation.

I have read the Department's Privacy Statement and agree to the Dept using my submission in the ways it describes. I understand this includes full publication on the Department's web site of my submission, any attachments and any personal information in those documents and possible supply to third parties such as state agencies, local govt and the proponent. I do not wish to have my personal information published with my submission.

The signature and name of the submitter are redacted with black ink.

21/10/2013