

Please read this letter.

Thank you

Date: 21.10.13  
Name: Judy + Ian Stokes  
Address: 960 Gloucester Tops Rd  
Berrico

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

Dear Sir

ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SSD-5156

I am writing to oppose Gloucester Resources Ltd's development application for an open cut coal mine. My reasons follow:

**Distance from the mine.** Statement from GRL...Statement from GRL. "The closest resident to any pit will be 1.7kms away."

Fact - From the main extraction boundary area are:

- the Forbesdale Estate, of 35 rural/residential properties, situated 900 to 1800m,
- the Thunderbolts Estate and Avon View residential estates, to the north, situated 1.8klms to 2.5klms,
- the rural/residential properties along the Bucketts Way situated 1.8klms to 2.5klms.

This is not one resident but many, who will suffer the noise and dust from this mine. Even coal seam gas wells and wind farms are legislated to be no closer than 2kms from a residence.

**Noise and Health.** This mine is far too close to Gloucester and the Forbesdale Estate. Noise and coal dust from coal train movements and loading - potentially at night - is a great concern. Very fine coal dust is a critical issue that GRL has not attended to - and which appears to be outside of the NSW government's interest. No one seems to be dealing with the sub 2.5 to 1 micron particles - yet these are the ones that travel furthest in the air and are able to enter the bloodstream through the lungs.

**Further Expansion.** I do not believe that the mine will stay at its proposed size. GRL will expand towards town and will seek to mine coal on its other two exploration licence areas along the Bucketts Way.

**Economics.** Already GRL has acquired 29 properties and the owners have left their land and farming businesses. I do not accept that GRL's economic assertions, nor its 'compensation' to Gloucester, nor its royalties to NSW are sufficient reason to ruin the environment and water systems of this valley. I do not accept that it is reasonable to inflict harm and suffering on people and communities simply for the profit of a company - or for royalties.

**Rehabilitation** is clearly outside GRL's interest and capability. They will permanently damage geology and its water systems. They will bring to the surface and discard waste coal. Potentially 30% of what is mined becomes a legacy contaminant for someone other than GRL to worry about.

GRL's interest is to do the cosmetics and hand back the legacy.

No explanation has been given as to how a coal-dependent Gloucester will be restarted after the mines close - and at what cost.

**Treatment of this Community.** GRL has not been honest with Gloucester. It secretly bought land under a number of names. Its EIS fails to tell the truth about community opposition and fails to tell the truth about the methods used to get 'willing sellers' of properties. I hope the Assessment Committee will detect these. GRL refuses to state clearly its intentions regarding projected expansion towards Gloucester and along the valley. However we do know that GRL does aspire to exploit the coal resource to the maximum extent. We were fobbed off by Minister MacDonald stating that GRL 'was only exploring'. We pin-pointed where GRL would start mining. MacDonald said 'Hose the community down'. We need your help.

There is no state reason to mine this coal and there is no sane reason to damage this valley and community.

Please use the full extent of the Precautionary Principle.  
humanity for people over profit.

Please defend the notion of fairness and

Please refuse GRL's application.

I have made no reportable political donations.

Yours faithfully

Judy + Ian Stokes

Jas Gawron  
Don Stokes