

**Matthew DiMaggio - Submission Opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156**

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**From:** Marion Corbett <cataneal@activ8.net.au>  
**To:** <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 10/25/2013 12:50 PM  
**Subject:** Submission Opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

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NOTE These are Dept of Planning MANDATORY fields.

My NAME is: Marion Corbett

My Full ADDRESS is: 1887 Gloucester Tops Rd, Invergordon, NSW, 2422

Dear Sir, I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Mine Project.

I have lived in the Gloucester area for most of my life. My family has been in the area since the 1840s and I have a very intense connection to and love for this unique and productive landscape. I do not wish to see it compromised by an open cut mine. I do not believe the short economic term benefits to a few should outweigh the risks to the health of the community and the environment.

The Rocky Hill project is too close to the town of Gloucester. This is an area of outstanding natural beauty – cradled between the The Bucketts & the Mograni range. Over the years the community of Gloucester has worked hard to create a “brand” based on picturesque scenery and clean water to attract tourists & new residents & bolster the appeal of our agricultural products. A coal mine on the approaches to the town will detract from the visual appeal & the “clean, green” perception. I own a beef cattle farm west of Gloucester & in today's health and provenance conscious market it is important to maintain Gloucester's association with sustainable food production not open cut mining. My other source of income comes from employment in a retail business in the town where a substantial part of our customer base comes from people who have moved to Gloucester for a “treechange” or to retire & from tourists and travellers attracted by the rural scenery, mountain streams & bushland.

I am concerned about the impact on the families living in the Forbesdale area. Their quality of life will be affected by noise and light and dust pollution. The value of their properties has been impacted adversely with severe consequences for their future financial prospects. Many of them moved to Gloucester for a peaceful rural lifestyle which is now under threat. I have witnessed the intense psychological & emotional distress to these families caused by the proposed development.

No one wants to live next door to an open-cut coal mine. The only way they can sell their homes is to the mining company, GRL and they don't want them.

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Health – negative health impacts, which can result in serious illnesses, from the dust from open cut coal mines are well known. Most of Gloucester township (including the hospital and schools) falls within the acknowledged 5km health impact zone of the Rocky Hill mine – thus placing a large proportion of the population at risk. Those most affected by the health impacts are our children, the old and the sick. Are the people of Gloucester just collateral damage?

Employment – Companies in town are already experiencing the negative impacts of having a mine nearby. One company lost 11 apprentices to the Stratford mine, down the valley. Mining is good for

employment if you want to work in a mine. It is not good for people who want to work in other industries in a mining town.

Water – The location of the proposed Rocky Hill mine is on the Avon River floodplain, and in the water catchment area of the Manning River which supplies drinking water to over 80,000 people. The Avon River has flooded 5 times in 4 years, with 2 floods occurring in February this year. There is real potential for contamination of the water in the catchment.

Cumulative Impacts – If approved, the Rocky Hill coal mine won't be operating in isolation in the Gloucester Valley. Yancoal has requested expansion of its mine at Stratford and AGL is planning on 330 CSG wells in the Valley – many of AGL's wells are to be placed within the Rocky Hill mine and the Stratford mine area. No other area in NSW has coal and CSG companies fighting over the same piece of land. To not consider the cumulative impacts of this mining is reckless and irresponsible.

I have not made a reportable political donation.

Yours sincerely, Marion Corbett New South Wales 2422, Australia