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Dear Sir

ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SSD-5156

I am writing to oppose the Rocky Hill development application for an open cut coal mine. This mine will border my parent's beef cattle farm (lot no's 21A and 21 B EJ & KJ Robinson) where they live with my Grandparents. The farm boundaries are the northern railway line on the west, Jacks Rd on the north, and Rocky Hill on the south and west.

I want this mine stopped for the following reasons:

Operating Hours: The main flow of traffic will be passing meters from the front of my grandparents house (21A) Monday to Saturday from 6am till 10pm with the possibility of extending to 4am. Six days a week they will be greatly disturbed by mining traffic. There will be between 186 and 294 light vehicles per day and 4 to 16 heavy trucks per day traveling directly past our farms front gate.

With the increase of traffic on Jacks Rd our farm will be impacted both from the north, with traffic, and from the south and east by the mine itself.

Noise and Vibration: Infrasound and low frequency noise can travel great distances in quiet settings and in a narrow enclosed valley. It is possible that people living 10kms away may be impacted by this noise. The two farm houses are 2km from the closest mine disturbance so every day their lives will be effected.

Air quality: 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. PM2.5 will linger in this small valley especially in winter when the fog does not lift till 9-10am in the mornings. This is not acceptable and needs to be addressed.

Visibility: This is a main concern; no matter where you are on the property you will see the mine. For two years we will be watching the northern and western visual barriers being built. The visual and noise pollution while these barriers are being built will be unacceptable. It is the effect this will have on my parents mental health that concerns me greatly. The visibility barriers will always be a visual reminder of an open cut coalmine operating inside these barriers and no amount of vegetation will decrease the visual impact of these barriers.

Rocky Hill say they will limit lighting and lighting glow in the area of the mine however the night time glow and pollution from the lighting will be visible and unacceptable

every night. I know as you age you wake throughout the night and you sleep lighter so I know that my parents will be disturbed throughout the night and will have difficulty sleeping.

Water: the farm relies on the Avon River to water stock year round. At times the river stops flowing but there are always water holes for the cattle. This mine intends to defer water which runs off the Mograni Range into the Avon River. EIS page 4-187 "The proposal would decrease flows in the Avon River downstream of the mine area (to Oaky Creek a distance of 1.6km) by up to 1.7%" this directly affects the farm area.

The visibility barriers are encroaching onto the Avon River flood plain therefore the whole flooding regime on the farm will be changed.

Rocky Hill has now acquired 267 megalitres of water licenses on the Avon River, if all this license is used it will dramatically reduce the river flow down stream, which will have a huge effect on the farm.

Health: I have been led to believe from my reading that anyone living within 5 km will suffer diminished health. It is stated that coal pollutants affect all major body organ systems and contribute to four of the five leading causes of death (heart disease, cancer, stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease) Therefore on health grounds alone this mine is far too close to my house and the farm.

It is a well known fact that PM2.5 levels will increase significantly by diesel emissions from mining vehicles and from generators for coal seam gas well pumps. The world health organization recognizes diesel as a class 1 carcinogen. The Health Risk Assessment states "the potential health risks of increased levels of PM2.5 and NO2 are negligible or acceptable" I ask acceptable to whom? We live less than 2km from the mine area boundary.

Our houses rely on water tanks for domestic use with the greater levels of dust and pollutants in the air our health will again be at risk from drinking water.

Many friends working in the mining industry that visit are shocked that an open cut coal mine could be placed so close to so many houses and farms. They all say we will all be covered in dust and subjected to large amounts of noise, living this close. Noise and dust is unavoidable in mining areas.

Property Values: Ever since GRL came into town, some 4 years ago, nearly all properties to the south of town have either had diminished values or have been unsalable unless GRL wanted to buy them. This has been, and continues to be, a major stress for all the people living to the south of town.

Rocky Hill has already bought 29 properties, if the proposal is approved, Rocky Hill must be made to buy our family farm as well, as the stress of living and working next to an open cut coal mine will be too great for my parents and grandparents.

I want this government to stop the proposed open cut coal mine.
I have made no reportable political donations.

Yours truly,

Timothy Robinson