

To the Director General

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

My name is Carolyn Bowman and I am writing this submission to vehemently oppose the Rocky Hill mine at Gloucester proposed by Gloucester Resources Limited.

I know that this submission is being read by an employee whose job it is, is to categorise my submission and put a tick in a table in order to collect data on what my submission is about. I DON'T WANT you to just put a tick in a table but to put yourself in my shoes, my life, my family's life and our town's life. I want you to emotionally feel the heartache and stress that this intended mine has already and will continue to have on ordinary people's lives. So when you read on please do so through your eyes and your heart as if you were living this.

I have lived my life as a good citizen, obeying society's laws, paying my taxes and contributing to society-some might say an ordinary life. I have cared for and raised two children who I am proud of, have a wonderful husband and am looking after elderly parents. My husband and I moved to Gloucester from Sydney and built a beautiful Australian homestead for our superannuation and as an inheritance for our children. We have always worked hard and paid our own way. We are just ordinary people.

I am not an activist or a "greenie", as has been portrayed by Gloucester Resources and at times the media, I am just an ordinary person who thought that I would have a say in our democratic society and have my voice heard in opposition to a mine which is morally and ethically incomprehensible. Come to my beautiful and stunning valley, come to my beautiful home which is less than 1500 metres from the open cut mine pit and tell me that this mine is worth the destruction of my home, my town and my valley.

Would you not take a stand if you were living 1500 metres from an open cut mine pit? **Put yourself in my shoes.**

Would you not take a stand if all the hard work over your life is now worth nothing because you cannot sell your house for its best value? **Put yourself in my shoes.**

Would you not take a stand if your health was at risk from dust, noise, vibrations and blastings? **Put yourself in my shoes.**

Would you not take a stand if you cannot leave your children the inheritance that they are entitled to? **Put yourself in my shoes.**

Would you not take a stand if you saw your neighbours, many older and more frail than yourself, suffer from anxiety and stress as they struggle to understand what the mine will do to their lives? **Put yourself in my shoes.**

Would you not take a stand if the stunning visual scenery that you moved here for was to be obliterated by a 2kmx50m high grey wall of dirt to stop you from seeing the mine's workings? **Put yourself in my shoes.**

I am not against mining- put them in the right place- not within 3 kms of a beautiful town and valley, not within 1km of a residential rural subdivision and not in a closed valley that derives one of its main sources of income from tourism.

### **When does an ordinary person's life count?**

My freedom of choice has been taken away because I cannot sell my house for its best value. I have no choice –this is where I have to live, this is where my family has to live, this is where my grandchildren will have to come to visit on holidays.

**Put yourself in my shoes**, would you choose to live 1500 metres from an open cut mine pit?

**Put yourself in my shoes**, would you choose to bring your children up 1500 metres from an open cut mine pit?

**Put yourself in my shoes**, would you choose to holiday in a mining town?

I have put a picture of my house below so that you can see that it should not be dismissed with the stroke of a pen- my house is now worth a third less than what it cost to build even if we could sell it! We are just 1500 metres from the mine pit!



I hope that after having read this you can feel the heartache and futility that I feel. Please would you put a red asterix on my submission and give it to your manager to read so that at least someone else can also feel the heartache!

As I started with I don't know how you show through a mark on a piece of paper the devastating impact that this intended mine has had and will continue to have, if it is approved, on my personal life, my family's life, my neighbour's lives and my town's life. All I hope and pray for is that the politicians and the bureaucrats have the gumption to do what is morally and ethically just and that is to refuse Gloucester Resources Limited application no. SSD-5156.

In the EIS from Gloucester Resources Limited there are hundreds of pages on the flora and fauna of the Avon Valley and a few pages relevant to the people who live 1500 metres or less from the mine.

## **All I ask is: When does an ordinary person's life count?**

Thank you for your consideration of my submission,

Carolyn Bowman

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Gloucester