

October 23, 2013

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

Dear Sir

OBJECTION TO ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SSD-5156

We write to lodge our objection to this project.

The proposed mine site is located too close to residential areas of Gloucester.

The economy of the Gloucester valley is largely based on agri-business and tourism is also a valuable revenue stream as well as providing employment. The mine will mean less people will want to come here and tourist income would decrease.

The EIS is confusing and does not include all aspects of the mine operation and impact and the statement that these would be included at a later date in management plans is not sufficient.

A cursory examination of the stated financial benefits from the mine is also confusing. It seems that the mine cannot possibly make a profit and we believe that potential royalties to the State government are overestimated.

We are most concerned about the coal dust. Apparently coal will be transported by train – but in uncovered loads. Coal dust is already a problem for people living next the existing mine. Coal dust does not recognise barriers. The site is so close to the township, residents who have children, hospitals, nursing homes, schools and the coal dust will settle on them.

Noise from the mine, particularly blasting will impact on most of the township, especially those living in Forbesdale, Avon and Thunderbolts residential estates. Proposed compensation for those affected by noise are not sufficient.

The number of jobs, and thereby economic benefit to the Gloucester township and community is overrated. It is common practice for most workers to be fly or drive in/fly or drive out. The mine will not create long term employment for locals. It will in fact decrease employment opportunities through loss of agribusiness and tourism.

Transport is of great concern and the Gloucester Shire Council's road maintenance program and resources will be taxed beyond its limits. Road traffic will damage roads. The mine saying they will re-surface roads and present this as an advantage to the community is misleading. The roads will be damaged by the traffic generated by the mine in the first place.

The social impact on the township is intense. Rental accommodation has increased in cost significantly due to increased demand by mine workers seeking weekday accommodation. The mine does not offer to provide emergency housing or assistance with housing for the community. Their project will create more shortages in affordable housing for locals.

Water and soil quality is of great concern. The mine will be located in an area which supplies drinking water for many towns. Once the water table, rivers are contaminated it is not possible for them to be rehabilitated. In severe weather conditions, like flooding the mine pits will fill and the overflow of contaminated water will soak into the soil, thus poisoning the pastures that cattle feed on. The EIS does not clearly address water contamination and the impact on groundwater supplies.

There are more reasons why we oppose this project, but this will suffice to demonstrate how strongly we feel.

We have not supported any political candidate or party with financial contributions.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Brooks and Alan Keown